

SPORTS PINK

75p

Home of Hampshire sport June 24 2017

TEN (yes, ten!) pages of non league football



SEE PAGES 10-19

A PERFECT FIT FOR SAINTS

Why Mauricio Pellegrino and Saints could be a match made in heaven ...



SEE PAGES 2/3



Five decades of red & white (but not always stripes!)

SEE PAGES 4-9



Six pages of Hants and local cricket news and views

SEE PAGES 26-31



Six pages of local football nostalgia - is your team one of 48 featured inside?

SEE PAGES 34-39

De Boer 'excited' about Palace

Frank de Boer is "very excited" about the opportunity to take over as Crystal Palace manager, according to his twin brother Ronald.

The Eagles look set to be closing in on their next new boss following the surprise resignation of Sam Allardyce at the end of last season, having just successfully secured the club's Premier League status.

A number of coaches were said to have been on the south London club's shortlist - including Marco Silva, who has since taken over at Watford following his departure from relegated Hull, Frenchman Christophe Galtier, Burnley boss Sean Dyche and Mauricio Pellegrino, the Argentine now appearing on the verge of joining Saints.

Palace are yet to make any official comment on their recruitment process.

However, it now appears



Frank De Boer.

former Ajax, Barcelona and Rangers defender De Boer is in pole position to take over at Selhurst Park, where he would become the eighth manager in seven years.

"He is very excited of course," Ronald de Boer said.

"I know they are talking and I think it's just about little terms with the coaching staff etc, so I don't see any problem."

De Boer, 47, left his last job at Inter Milan in November - having been in charge for only 14 matches - after he was unable to produce the consistency which saw him deliver the Eredivisie title for Ajax over four consecutive seasons.

Ronald de Boer believes his brother can make an impact on the English top flight.

"It's the biggest league - everybody knows it, everybody is watching the Premier League," he said.

"You can do really something, because there is money involved and you can buy players."

SAINTS

Why Pellegrino

Simon Harrison

MAURICIO Pellegrino has been confirmed as Saints' latest boss.

The Argentine replaces Claude Puel in what is a very warm managerial hot-seat at St Mary's.

Here, Simon Harrison - a Spanish-based football writer - looks at Pellegrino's year in charge at Alaves and what he can bring to the Premier League.

*

Deportivo Alaves were La Liga's biggest success story of last season.

Jose Luis Mendilibar's Eibar punched well above their weight in terms of their budget, but many expected 'El Glorioso' to find themselves in the relegation dogfight alongside fellow promoted sides Osasuna and Leganes.

As it was, Mauricio Pellegrino guided them to a ninth-place finish, an unprecedented 24 points above the drop zone, and their first-ever Copa del Rey final which they bravely lost 3-1 to Barcelona.

Despite it being the club's first season in the Spanish top flight for a decade, the Argentine coach was not the man who got them back into the big time.

Jose Bordalas secured promotion, a monumental achievement, but Alaves' board saw enough positives from Pellegrino's three-year spell coaching in Argentina to pull the trigger on a reshuffle.

Such trust did not come without pressure, as out-performing his predecessor would be difficult.

Gamble

Pellegrino's first managerial spell in LaLiga did not even last six months back in 2012, as Valencia dismissed him due to a poor league start - five wins and six defeats in his 14 matches.

At Mestalla, he looked to play with a two banks of four that pressed high, seeking to set up camp a long way from their own penalty area and take risks to create chances.

That gamble did not pay off.

This did not remain the case for his Alaves blueprint, but one factor was consistent: quick transitions that sought to penalise mistakes and hit opponents on the counter.

Last season, his four-man defence would set up fairly deep, with Real Madrid loanee Marcos Llorente breaking up play in central midfield, holding his position to combat turnovers of possession and ultimately keeping

'Saints can offer him everything he wants, and more'



things simple.

A role that would suit Saints midfielder Oriol Romeu down to the ground.

At full back, Atletico Madrid's young star Theo Hernandez acted as a flying wing back while on loan, with converted winger Kiko Femenia keen to maraud down the opposite flank and support the attack in the final third.

Again, these facets of Pellegrino's system would be easily replicated by the likes of Cedric Soares and Ryan Bertrand. That suggests the current Saints squad already possesses attributes and players that compliment their new boss' philosophy well.

Pellegrino managed to achieve the impossible in Spain with minimal funds, relying on loan deals

from bigger clubs in order to bolster his squad with short-term options in key areas.

Next season, Alaves will struggle due to the bulk of their first-team spine being ripped out by players returning to their parent clubs, but their coach will start a new, longer chapter for himself at St Mary's.

There he should be a great fit. Saints have a well-balanced squad, which Pellegrino could not construct at his former club due to time and budget constraints.

Although he was able to showcase his qualities as a coach by ensuring that Alaves were one of the most organised and resilient units in the division, they didn't create enough at the other end.

Defensively, they conceded just 43 times in the league, a record bettered only by Atletico Madrid, Villarreal, Barcelona and Real Madrid.

Manolo Gabbiadini, Charlie Austin and Jay Rodriguez offer depth and star quality up front that Pellegrino lacked in La Liga.

Deyverson top scored for El Glorioso with just seven league goals,



SAINTS



is a perfect fit



in a season that saw Alaves score just 41 times across 38 match days.

Those figures were replicated by Claude Puel's at St Mary's, where Nathan Redmond top scored with seven in a total of 41.

Alaves did not use an out-and-

out number 10, as young second-division loanee Victor Camarasa played more as a secondary striker. Pellegrino also did not use wide options that offered much more than being able to whip well-placed crosses into the box.

It was fairly basic but effective, football and Pellegrino would be keen to adapt his system based on his latest charges.

Importantly, he is not rigid in his approach, and is not afraid to react tactically in-game.

Dusan Tadic, Sofiane Boufal and Redmond are far more creative and technically gifted than past personnel, who ran out of ideas in the final third at times.

With a sprinkle of additional quality, plenty of Alaves' league-high 13 draws could have been narrow wins.

Saints' impressive academy set up should be Pellegrino's most important asset, however.

There is no fear to entrust young players with key roles in his system, mirroring the approach of his friend, compatriot and St Mary's predecessor Mauricio Pochettino.

Pellegrino showed that by utilising Marcos Llorente, Victor Camarasa and Theo Hernandez.

The likes of James Ward-Prowse, Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, Matt Targett and Sam McQueen will certainly be held in high regard.

Heaven

Should Pellegrino wish to source young talent from other clubs, Saints will have the financial resources to secure them permanently.

Key targets can be tied down on long-term deals, rather than the year-long loans that Alaves were capable of negotiating.

The 45-year-old treated his only season at Mendizorroza in a manner that suggested he would have liked to build a legacy there, but ultimately his ambitions seemed too big for their humble means.

Southampton, in contrast, can offer Mauricio Pellegrino everything he wants, and more.

It should be a match made in heaven.

An astute, tactically aware coach with a tendency to utilise young players will be the perfect balance for success in the Premier League.

● What do you think? Comment

Young Lions reap rewards

England Under-21 boss Aidy Boothroyd believes the Young Lions are reaping the rewards of their St George's Park blueprint.

The 46-year-old has guided England into the semi-finals of Euro 2017 in Poland after a 3-0 win over the hosts on Thursday.

It is the first time they have reached the knockout stages at the tournament since 2009 after winning Group A in Kielce.

The team's progress follows the Under-20s' World Cup win earlier this month while the Under-17s were runners-up at their European Championships in May.

And Boothroyd feels England teams are now starting to play with confidence at major tournaments.

"I think we are. It is all part of a long-term plan. The building of St George's Park, the players in terms of personnel in important positions. There has been some investment into it. It is starting to bear fruit," he said.

"We have got good players at all age groups and the fact that we are getting this experience at these stages of tournaments is good for English football.

"It gives us a bit of a boost with the development teams. Gareth's (Southgate) appointment (as senior manager) has given everyone a lift."

Lewis Baker's late penalty added to goals from Demarai Gray and Jacob Murphy against Poland, with their opponents finishing the game with 10 men after Saints target Jan Bednarek was dismissed for conceding the spot-kick.

It came after a 2-1 win over Slovakia and last week's opening 0-0 draw with Sweden, where Jordan Pickford saved a late penalty.

Saints pair James Ward-Prowse and Nathan Redmond started all three group games, while Matt Targett and Jack Stephens are still waiting for their first action.



Aidy Boothroyd

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SAINTS' HOME SHIRTS 1980-2017 PIC SPECIAL



1980-81 The first Saints of the 20th century that didn't feature the club's traditional red and white stripes, but still proved popular.



1981-82 Rank Xerox become Saints' first shirt sponsors, in what proves to be Kevin Keegan's (pictured right) second and last season at The Dell.



1982-83 Saints striker Steve Moran in action against Watford, though shirt sponsorship had disappeared after one only season.



1983-84 Air Florida become Saints' second shirt sponsors, with Frank Worthington, Rubeen Agboola and Mark Wright pictured here in the FA Cup win at Fratton Park.



1984-85 Danny Wallace at Stamford Bridge in the fifth and last season of a shirt featuring one large white stripe down the front. It would be 32 years before fans would see a similar-looking kit emerge again.



1985-86 Danny Wallace on the ball in a disappointing shirt which failed to capture any of Saints' history and tradition. There was a lot of red, but not so much white.



SAINTS' HOME SHIRTS 1980-2017 PIC SPECIAL



1986-87 Jimmy Case wearing the same shirt as the season before. Too much red, no stripes. Very poor. Must do better, shirt designers.



1987-88 Is this pinstripe effort an improvement on the previous two seasons, or the worst Saints home kit of all time. The Sports Pink cannot decide ...



1988-89 Graham Baker, Danny Wallace, Rod Wallace and Jimmy Case - lots of chevrons on the sleeves and shorts. Lots of pinstripes. Painfully 80s in some way.



1989-90 Now this is more like it. Sponsors Draper have dropped the 'Tools' bit and Saints' traditional red and white stripes are back for the first time since 1979/80



1990-91 If it's not broke, don't fix it ...



1991-92 Saints' kit for the last ever First Division season is an improvement, with the sponsors logo taken off its previous black background.



SAINTS' HOME SHIRTS 1980-2017 PIC SPECIAL



1992/93 The Premier League era sees Saints start a three-season stint with a new sponsor and 'V' stripe under the collar. Different.



1993/94 The longer Saints wore the 'V' stripe shirt, the more the Sports Pink liked it. Could it ever return one day?



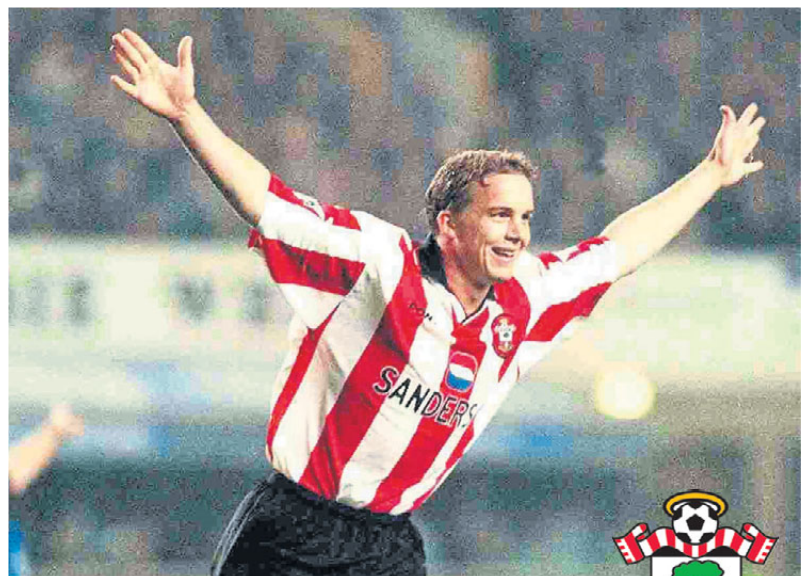
1994/95 Neil Maddison appearing to hover in mid-air, in the last of the 'V' stripe shirts (and the last before the Echo took colour pictures ...)



1995/96 Sanderson's logo was alright, but it's three-coloured circle above the name took attention away from the badge. Still, it was a lot better than the Manchester United kit featured here ...



1996/97 Sanderson's name will forever live on when photos are shown of Saints beating Manchester United 6-3 ...



1997/98 Kevin Davies celebrates scoring against Everton, in wider stripes than the previous few seasons. And here at Sports Pink Towers we don't think it looks too great.



SAINTS' HOME SHIRTS 1980-2017 PIC SPECIAL



1998/99 Same as the year before. Matt Le Tissier and Dave Hughes celebrate a goal at Wimbledon in the Great Escape.



1999/00 No, no and thrice no! Dean Richards, right, celebrates a goal in a shirt featuring one red stripe down the front. Different, yes, but too white.



2000/01 No, still don't like it. And the kit maker's logo, on the right side of the shirt, is too large as well.



2001/02 The move to St Mary's coincides with a return to the classic red and white stripes look. A big improvement on the previous two years.



2002/03 Same as the previous year, here's James Beattie giving Fabrice Fernandes a lift after scoring against Arsenal.



2003/04 A slight change on the previous season, with no stripes on the sleeve, and here's Marian Pahars showing the shirt off after scoring against Pompey.

SAINTS' HOME SHIRTS 1980-2017 PIC SPECIAL



2004/05

The same kit as the season before, as Saints' 27-year unbroken run in the top flight of English football comes to an end on the final day at St Mary's.



2005/06

Grzegorz Rasiak in a slightly changed shirt, with the Friends Provident Logo now on a white background and the club badge moved to a central position.



2006/07

Flybe are the main shirt sponsors for the first time, with the badge moved back to the left hand side and a black trim down the arms.



2007/08

No change from the season before, with Stern John pictured celebrating a goal. The 2004/05 hooped socks are far better than the sole red stripe ones, though.



2008/09

Traditionalists might have approved this shirt, which ditched the black arm trim and included extra stripes and a return of hooped socks.



2009/10

Rickie Lambert pictured in the same kit as the one worn the previous season, the Markus Liebherr era now very much underway.



SAINTS' HOME SHIRTS 1980-2017 PIC SPECIAL



2010/11 The first kit sanctioned by chairman Nicola Cortese was a real retro one and a winner with fans - a single red sash, mirroring the very first Saints kit of the 1880s.



2011/12 Stripes are back as Billy Sharp celebrates a goal as Saints win promotion for the second season running.



2012/13 The worst Saints home shirt of modern times, a pinstripe effort with no nod towards the club's tradition - the first time since the late 80s there that had happened.



2013/14 Another season, another change - this one still featuring a predominantly red shirt, though with more white on the arms and more white on the socks. Still not remotely a Saints kit, though.



2014/15

With chairman Nicola Cortese having left earlier in the year, this was the first kit after his departure - and Saints returned to their traditional stripes.



2015/16 A slight change to the previous season's shirt, but undoubtedly it still shouted 'SAINTS'.



2016/17 Sofiane Boufal pictured wearing the first Under Armour kit, complete with thinner stripes and the new sponsor's logo.



2017/18

Retro is cool again, as Saints hark back to their famous early 80s era with the second Under Armour shirt. Overall, fans seem to have voted it a winner.



NON LEAGUE



Hill happy to give striker Zebroski a second chance



Chris Zebroski.

NATIONAL League outfit Eastleigh have boosted their strike options with the return of powerful frontman Chris Zebroski.

The 6ft 11in forward had a brief spell with the club in 2013 and was outstanding in the second leg of the Conference South play-offs away at Dover Athletic.

On leaving the Spitfires that summer, the former Torquay, Bristol Rovers and Cheltenham man returned to the Football League with Newport County.

But his time in south Wales was ended when he was jailed for four years and four months in April 2015 for robbery and assault.

The 30-year-old has put pen to paper on a

one-year deal at Eastleigh with the option of an additional year.

The new contract with the Spitfires is his first since being released from prison.

Flitney and Zebroski are the third and fourth players to land in the Spitfires' arrivals lounge this summer.

Paul McCallum, signed from Leyton Orient on a two-year deal, was followed into the Silverlake by experienced ex-AFC Bournemouth midfielder Danny Hollands from Crewe Alexandra.

Hill said: "We were alerted to the fact that Danny Hollands wanted to come back to this area, so we got it done."

"Paul McCallum's still a young lad and he

could be anything. He scored 15 goals in a bad team."

As for Zebroski, Hill said: "I like to give people second chances, people who have got something to prove and have admitted they've done wrong in the past."

"Chris needs this chance and he's as excited as anything to get it. He turned down opportunities from other clubs to come back and play for us. He wants to play for Eastleigh."

Winger Ross Stearn and defender Ayo Obileye are still with the club but remain on the transfer list.

The Spitfires report back to training next Thursday.

Afobe: Sam can shine

BENIK Afobe has tipped young striker Sam Surridge to follow in the footsteps of Baily Cargill and Matt Worthington in plotting a path into the Premier League.

Defender Cargill, AFC Totton's player of the year in 2012/13, became the first Cherries academy graduate to feature in the top flight when he came on as a late substitute in the 1-1 draw at Manchester United in March.

And former academy midfielder Worthington emulated Cargill after coming off the bench for the 1-1 draw at Leicester on the final day of last season.

The stock of Wimborne-raised Surridge, an unused substitute at the King Power Stadium, grew after he netted eight goals in 10 appearances for National South outfit Poole Town in the early part of last term.

And having returned from a broken thumb, the highly-rated teenager found prolific form for Cherries under-21s before being promoted to the first-team squad by boss Eddie Howe.

Contracted to Cherries until the summer of 2018, Surridge has impressed fellow frontman Afobe in training.

"Sam is a good lad and a good finisher. He isn't the finished article but his finishing ability is very high. He likes scoring goals. You can see that every time a finishing drill is put on, he wants to join in."

"You can see he has the hunger to score goals. Every time he has trained with us, he has done well."

"We have a good academy and a good development squad. When they train with us they never let themselves down and, hopefully, a few of them can make the grade."



Sam Surridge.

Flitney back - but mainly as a coach

Wendy Glee



RETURNING hero Ross Flitney has come back to Eastleigh primarily as a goalkeeper coach.

The 33-year-old will forever be revered at the Silverlake as the backbone of the 2013/14 Conference South title-winning squad.

But although Flitney still has plenty to offer as a player, manager Richard Hill believes he is ready for the next stage of his career.

"Ross will be registered as a player but don't forget that Ben Strevens (coach) and Paul Reid (head of recruitment) are also registered players, but it's not the case that they're going to play that many games," said Hill.

"I'm not saying Ross won't, but I've always said that he will be a good goalkeeper coach. Forget his age, experience and everything else, I told him when he was here before that he should think about doing his badges and I said it again when he was with me at Whitehawk."

"Until the last few weeks, Ross hadn't been that interested, but I spoke to him again and told him this would be a nice opportunity for him. I've seen him put on some very good coaching sessions."

Former Barnet man Graham Stack remains Eastleigh No1 but, with young Mark Childs still recovering from long-term injury, Flitney offers the perfect back-up.

"If you've got a 'keeper like Ross around, it would be ludicrous not to register him as a player," said Hill.

"I don't think Mark Childs will be ready for the start of the sea-



Ross Flitney has returned to the Silverlake Stadium

son and, if anything happens to Stack, we've got a goalkeeper more than capable of stepping in.

"Ross is conscientious, hard-working and he's not going to throw his dummy out of the pushchair if he gets upset."

Hill first brought Flitney to the

Silverlake in October 2012. Initially he came on a month's loan from Gillingham and the move was made permanent later that season.

He remained with the club following Hill's departure, but left during Ronnie Moore's reign last

season following the arrival of Ryan Clarke from AFC Wimbledon.

Flitney briefly linked up again with Hill at Whitehawk and finished last season on Bromley's books.

NON LEAGUE



Wyvern Combination numbers growing

NUMBERS have swelled in the Wyvern Combination League for the 2017/18 season.

Fareham Town, Folland Sports and Bemerton Heath Harlequins have all rekindled their reserve sides, while new entrants have arrived from Infinity, East Cowes Vics and Gosport Borough.

It means the league will run with a ten-strong Midweek Division and two divisions of 16 divided East and West.

Wyvern Combination League constitution for 2017/18 -

Midweek Division: AFC Portchester, Bashley, Basingstoke Town, Dorchester Town, Gosport Borough (midweek), Moneyfields, Salisbury, Wimborne Town, Winchester City, Poole Town. Division One East: AFC Stoneham, Alresford Town, Alton, Baffins Milton Rovers, Bosham, Fareham Town, Folland Sports, Gosport Borough (Sat), Hamble Club, Infinity, Liss Athletic, Newport IOW, Petersfield Town, Sholing, Tadley Calleva, US Portsmouth.

Division One West: Bemerton HH, Brockenhurst, Christchurch, Colden Common, Downton, East Cowes Vics, Fawley AFC, Hythe & Dibden, Laverstock & Ford, Lymington Town, New Milton Town, Ringwood Town, Romsey Town, Team Solent, Totton & Eling, Verwood Town.

Second round: AFC Stoneham v Liss Athletics, Bashley v AFC Portchester, Bemerton HH v Alresford Town/Petersfield Town, Brockenhurst v Baffins MR/East Cowes Vics, Christchurch/US Portsmouth v Romsey Town, Downton/Verwood Town v Totton & Eling/Salisbury, Gosport Borough (midweek) v Fawley AFC, Hythe & Dibden v Bosham, Laverstock & Ford v Wimborne Town, Lymington Town/Team Solent v Winchester City, Moneyfields/Gosport Borough (Sat) v Newport IOW, New Milton Town v Colden Common/Hamble Club, Poole Town v Folland Sports, Ringwood Town v Fareham Town/Dorchester Town, Sholing v Basingstoke Town, Tadley Calleva/Alton v Infinity.

Wyvern Challenge Cup draw -

First round: Alresford v Petersfield Town, Baffins Milton Rovers v East Cowes Vics, Christchurch v US Portsmouth, Colden Common v Hamble Club, Downton v Verwood Town, Fareham Town v Dorchester Town, Lymington Town v Team Solent, Moneyfields v Gosport Borough (Sat), Tadley Calleva v Alton, Totton & Eling v Salisbury.

Double delight for Waltham Cobras



Waltham Wolves Cobras.

WALTHAM Wolves Cobras finished off last season in style by completing a sparkling Hampshire FA Saturday Under-14s Cup and league double.

Linden Homes South set them on their way by sponsoring the kit they wore when winning the two trophies.

They also gave the youngsters the opportunity to train on Swanmore Technology College's football pitch - a ground that Linden Homes developed for the school.

Neil Kerton, Waltham Wolves manager, couldn't be happier with his team's achievements.

"We're thrilled," he smiled. "The boys have played amazingly throughout the season and I have to say they looked very smart in their kits."

"We'd like to thank Linden Homes for their support and hope the club can enjoy this relationship with them for many years to come."

Playing in the Mid Solent Youth

League, Kerton's side held onto their title of A League champions.

This, combined with winning the Hampshire Cup, has made 2017 a year to remember.

A proud Jo Dixon, marketing manager for Linden Homes South, enthused: "Well done Waltham Wolves, what a victory!"

"We're so proud of the team and feel privileged to have played a part in their success."

"The boys looked great in the

kits and it was great to see them lift that trophy!"

Situated just a minutes' walk from Swanmore Technology College is Linden Homes' new development Scholars Grange.

● For more information, visit the club website www.waltham-wolves.co.uk

● Have you got a youth football 'good news' story for us? We'd love to hear from you. Email wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk with words and pictures.

New deal for Pirates boss Darrell

DARRELL Clarke has accepted a new five-year contract to remain as Bristol Rovers manager.

The 39-year-old former Salisbury City boss has worked wonders for The Pirates since being appointed in March 2014.

With just eight games left of the 2013/14 campaign, he was unable to prevent the club dropping into non-League football after 94 years as a Football League club.

But Rovers have been on an upward curve ever since and, in guiding the team to League One, Clarke became the club's first manager to achieve back-to-back promotions.

Club president Wael Al Qadi said: "I am so pleased that Darrell has decided to extend his stay with us."

"We were very keen for him to remain in charge and to build on the success he has brought to the club in a very short time."

"It was important, we felt, to ensure we had the man we wanted at the helm."

"With Darrell as manager, we feel that the club is in a stable position and we are confident that he will continue to move us forward."



Darrell Clarke

Oldham at The Ray Mac

SALISBURY will be welcoming Oldham Athletic to the Ray McEnhill Stadium next month.

John Sheridan's SkyBet League One side will visit Old Sarum for a pre-season friendly on Wednesday, July 12 (7.45pm).

The Latics will be based at The University of Bath's sports training village for a pre-season camp and their visit to Salisbury will be the only public match of their tour.

An Oldham spokesman said:

"We're delighted to be heading down to Salisbury for a pre-season friendly. 'It's a new ground for all Oldham Athletic supporters so hopefully they will travel down in their numbers."

"It will be a good test for John Sheridan's side and hopefully it will be a night enjoyed by all."

Steve Claridge's Whites have also added two away fixtures to their schedule - at Chichester City on Thursday, July 6 and at Downton on Tuesday, July 25.

NON LEAGUE



Midweek league start

THE new Sydenhams Wessex League season will again be a midweek kick-off.

With the FA Cup due to get up and running on Saturday, August 5, clubs will get a league game under their belts before their extra preliminary round ties.

Weather-permitting, league fixture secretary Roger Allen aims to finish the season on April 21, 2018.

First fortnight's fixtures -

Tuesday, August 1
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Alresford Town, Andover Town v Bemerton HH, Blackfield & Langley v Amesbury Town, Bournemouth Poppies v Brockenhurst, Cowes Sports v Sholing, Fareham Town v Horndean, Hamble Club v Newport IW, Hamworthy Utd v Lymington Town, Petersfield Town v Baffins Milton Rovers, Portland United v Team Solent, Shaftesbury v Bashley.

Friday, August 4
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Division One: Christchurch v Weymouth Res, Fawley AFC v Totton & Eling, Folland Sports v Downton.

Saturday, August 5
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Baffins Milton Rovers v Hamble Club.
Division One: AFC Stoneham v Verwood Town, Andover New Street v Alton, East Cowes Vics v New Milton Town, Ringwood Town v Laverstock & Ford, Romsey Town v Hythe & Dibden, Tadley Calleva v US Portsmouth.

Monday, August 7
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Team Solent v Cowes Sports.

Tuesday, August 8
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Amesbury Town v Brockenhurst, Bashley v Hamworthy Utd, Bemerton HH v Blackfield & Langley, Fareham Town v Petersfield Town, Hamble Club v Bournemouth Poppies, Horndean v AFC Portchester, Newport IW v Lymington Town, Portland Utd v Shaftesbury, Sholing v Baffins MR.

Wednesday, August 9
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Alresford Town v Andover Town.

Friday, August 11
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Division One: Fawley AFC v Andover NS.

Saturday, August 12
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Team Solent, Alresford Town v Brockenhurst, Andover Town v Sholing, Baffins MR v Bashley, Blackfield & Langley v Fareham Town, Cowes Sports v Portland Utd, Hamble Club v Bemerton HH, Hamworthy Utd v Newport IW, Horndean v Bournemouth Poppies, Petersfield Town v Amesbury Town, Shaftesbury v Team Solent.

Division One: Alton v Ringwood, Hythe & Dibden v Tadley Calleva, Laverstock & Ford v Romsey Town, New Milton v Folland Sports, Totton & Eling v US Portsmouth, Verwood Town v East Cowes Vics, Weymouth Res v AFC Stoneham, Whitchurch v Christchurch.

Monday, August 14
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Team Solent v Andover Town.

Tuesday, August 15
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Amesbury Town v Shaftesbury, Baffins MR v Alresford Town, Bashley v Brockenhurst, Bemerton HH v Hamworthy Utd, Bournemouth Poppies v Blackfield & Langley, Fareham Town v Cowes Sports, Newport IW v AFC Portchester, Petersfield Town v Hamble Club, Portland Utd v Lymington Town, Sholing v Horndean.

Division One: Andover NS v Downton, Laverstock & Ford v Alton, Ringwood Town v New Milton, Totton & Eling v Hythe & Dibden.

Wednesday, August 16
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Division One: Christchurch v Fawley AFC, East Cowes Vics v Romsey Town, Folland Sports v US Portsmouth, Weymouth Res v Verwood Town, Whitchurch v AFC Stoneham.

Holdings Sholing start cup defence at Totton



Byron Mason lifts the Wessex League Cup last month.

HOLDERS Sholing will open their defence of the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup away at Division One outfit Totton & Eling.

Despite lifting the trophy with a 2-1 win over Baffins Milton Rovers at Portchester last month, Dave Diaper's Boatmen must start at the very beginning next time round.

Their trip to Millers Park was one of nine first-round ties pulled out of the hat at this week's AGM.

All remaining teams progress straight through to round two.

The first-round draw has also thrown up a Waterside derby be-

tween Blackfield & Langley and Hythe & Dibden - the winners to host Romsey Town.

Baffins, the 2016/17 runners-up, face a second-round trip to cup specialists Team Solent who won the trophy two seasons ago.

Sydenhams Wessex League Cup draw 2017/18-

First round: Alresford Town v Christchurch, Blackfield & Langley v Hythe & Dibden, Bournemouth v AFC Portchester, Downton v Ringwood Town, East Cowes Victoria v Fawley AFC, New Milton Town v Laverstock & Ford, Portland United v Amesbury Town, Shaftesbury v Whitchurch Unit-

ed, Totton & Eling v Sholing.

Second round: Andover New Street v Folland Sports, Bashley v Alresford Town / Christchurch, Bemerton Heath Harlequins v Hamble Club, Blackfield & Langley / Hythe & Dibden v Romsey Town, Bournemouth / AFC Portchester v Cowes Sports, Downton / Ringwood Town v Totton & Eling / Sholing, Fareham Town v AFC Stoneham, Horndean v Brockenhurst, Lymington Town v Portland United / Amesbury Town, Newport (IOW) v Tadley Calleva, Petersfield Town v Andover Town, Shaftesbury / Whitchurch United v East Cowes Victoria / Fawley AFC, Team Solent v Baffins Milton Rovers, US Portsmouth v Alton, Verwood Town v New Milton Town / Laverstock & Ford, Weymouth Reserves v Hamworthy United.

Jolly Jam Boys are friendliest club

Wendy Gee



WHITCHURCH United may have been relegated from the Sydenhams Premier Division last season, but they have made their Longmeadow Ground a welcoming place to be.

Once again the jolly Jam Boys have been voted the Sydenhams Wessex League's friendliest club by the Match Officials' Association.

Basingstoke referee Jim Stokes handed over the award at Monday's league AGM. It followed a poll of Wessex 'men in black' who voted Whitchurch tops for hospitality.

● JOHN Gorman's plans to retire as the Sydenhams Wessex League competition secretary have run aground.

The Overton-based official has agreed to stay on another year because the league can't find anyone to replace him.

Paying tribute to all Gorman's hard work, league chairman Ian Hoare said: "He has done an amazing job. Even if we do find someone else, we wouldn't let John go away!"

New to the SWL board is Belinda Colley, the league's new assistant referee appointments secretary.

Former Bournemouth Poppies secretary Mike Robins takes over as editor of the SWL newsletter.

● SYDENHAMS Wessex League chairman Ian Hoare has warned clubs he will not tolerate anyone taking their frustrations out on



Wessex League chairman Ian Hoare.

league officers.

He stressed that if clubs have any gripes about league policy, they should direct them at him or vice-chairman Nick Spencer - or

face being hauled up before a disciplinary commission.

"I won't have a tirade of abuse directed at my officers," he warned Monday's secretaries and

chairs meeting.

"Think first about whether you need to say something and, if you do, pick up the phone to myself or Nick. You may like the answer, you may not, but be polite. Let's be friends. Courtesy goes both ways."

While acknowledging that 90 per cent of SWL clubs are "excellent", Hoare said there were ten per cent who "cause problems."

And he stated: "We can't have 90 per cent of clubs doing exactly what they're asked to do and ten per cent sticking two fingers up at us. Do things properly or you will be fined."

● THE Sydenhams Wessex League will need to call an EGM to get the league's accounts signed off.

The process has been delayed following the recent death of treasurer/bookkeeper Bob Rose.

"We've had major problems with access to the bank and I can't give the auditor the answers to questions until we get through the paperwork," said league chairman Ian Hoare.

"We're going to have to call clubs back for an EGM."

The league urgently require a treasurer/bookkeeper for the new season. Contact Hoare at chairman.wessexleague@gmail.com

● ELECTRONIC substitution boards are coming to the Sydenhams Wessex League.

Clubs gave their consent to the league purchasing the boards, each bearing the name of sponsors Sydenhams, at Monday's secretaries and chairs meet.

The 41 boards - one for every club - will cost £12,600.

NON LEAGUE



Ex-Cherries star back at Silkmen

Wendy Gee



FORMER AFC Bournemouth goalkeeper Shwan Jalal has followed Scott Wilson into Macclesfield Town.

Ex-Eastleigh striker Wilson signed for the Silkmen last week and now Jalal, 33, is re-joining the Vanarama National League outfit.

The Iraq-born 'keeper left Macclesfield for Wrexham last summer after a season at Moss Rose, but says it was a 'no-brainer' for him to return. I loved my time here previously and it is great to be able to come back," he said.

A Bournemouth player between 2008 and 2014, Jalal's last league game for Wrexham was a 1-1 National League draw at Eastleigh on April 29.

● NICK Spetch - father of Poole Town defender Will - has become the National League South club's first director of football.

Chris Reeves, who recently stepped into the chairman's role, explained: "Nick comes to every game and that's been the case for a number of years.

"His knowledge of local football is encyclopaedic and I'm absolutely delighted he has accepted the role.

"Tom (Killick, manager) is very comfortable with the appointment. The reality is it's not going to change the way we operate.

"Nick is very involved with Tom, Callum Brooks and the first-team players and the under-16s and under-18s know him well.

"We are entering a team in the Wyvern League next season and I see Nick's appointment as part



Chris Reeves and, right, Lee Bradbury

of creating continuity. I'm hoping the youngsters will be able to see a pathway to the first team."

● LEE Bradbury's achievement of guiding Havant & Waterlooville to the Isthmian League title has been saluted with the Premier Division manager-of-the-year award.

The Hawks finished two points

clear of south coast neighbours Bognor Regis to bounce straight back up to the National League South just a year after relegation.

Dedicating the award to chairman Derek Pope, the club directors, backroom staff and player, Bradbury said: "I have to thank the club for keeping faith with me after being relegated the season before."



Bush Hill friendly will be a family affair



Bush Hill with their Hampshire League trophy.

BUSH Hill's opening pre-season friendly will be something of a family affair.

Eugene McManus's Hampshire Premier League champions will entertain Sydenhams Premier outfit Brockenhurst, managed by his brother Pat.

The game will take place at Bush Hill's Mansel Park, Millbrook, home on Saturday, July 8.

Perry Harding picked up a hat-trick of honours at the Bush Hill presentation evening, winning the players' player, most improved player and goal-of-the-season (Fleetlands away) trophies.

James Lavender got the nod as manager's player, Nial Deveraux was best goalkeeper and hot shot Cain Prentice picked up the Golden Boot.

FRIENDLIES 2017

Saturday, July 1
Salisbury v Portsmouth.

Wednesday, July 5
Folland Sports v Blackfield & Langley

Friday, July 7
Fawley AFC v AFC Totton
Winchester City v Gosport Borough

Saturday, July 8
Andover Town v Highworth Town
Bush Hill v Brockenhurst
Eastleigh v AFC Wimbledon
Hamble Club v Pagham
Havant & Waterlooville v Portsmouth

Monday, July 10
Moneyfields v Brockenhurst

Tuesday, July 11
AFC Totton v Aldershot Town
Basingstoke Town v Eastleigh
Winchester City v Hungerford Town

Wednesday, July 12
Fawley AFC v Blackfield & Langley
Folland Sports v Moneyfields.

Thursday, July 13
Baffins MR v Gosport Borough

Saturday, July 15
Andover Town v Downton (Sparsholt College)
Blackfield & Langley v AFC Totton
Eastleigh v Portsmouth
Havant & Waterlooville v Farnborough
Moneyfields v Gosport Borough
Winchester City v Hanwell Town

Tuesday, July 18
AFC Totton v Havant & Waterlooville
Andover Town v Salisbury
Blackfield & Langley v Eastleigh
Hamble Club v Godalming Town
Newport IW v Portsmouth (7pm)
Winchester City v Sholing

Wednesday, July 19
Folland Sports v Gosport Borough.

Thursday, July 20
Bemerton HH v Gosport Borough

Friday, July 21
Gosport Borough v Lymington Town
Hythe & Dibden v Brockenhurst

Saturday, July 22
Andover Town v Basingstoke Town
Bashley v Winchester City
Brockenhurst Development v Hamworthy Rec Res
Eastleigh v Newport County
Havant & Waterlooville v Sutton Utd
Horndean v Gosport Borough

Tuesday, July 25
Andover NS v Andover Town
Bashley v Wimborne Town.
Bemerton HH v AFC Totton
Blackfield & Langley v Winchester City
Fareham Town v Moneyfields
Horndean v Havant & Waterlooville
Laverstock & Ford v Brockenhurst

Wednesday, July 26
Fawley AFC v Sholing
Folland Sports v Gosport Borough

Thursday, July 27
Bemerton HH v AFC Totton

Friday, July 28
Eastleigh v Sheffield Utd
Gosport Borough v Bognor Regis
Team Solent v Thatcham Town (3G)

Saturday, July 29
Andover Town v Hedge End Rangers (Sparsholt College)
AFC Totton v Chichester City
Brockenhurst Development v Shrewton

NON LEAGUE



Roberts signs up

FORMER AFC Totton forward Luke Roberts has signed up for another National League South season with Poole Town.

At the Dolphins' recent presentation evening, Roberts cleaned up with three awards – supporters' player-of-the-season, supporters' club player-of-the-season and players' player-of-the-season.

A club statement said: "Luke was a huge influence on the club's success in finishing fifth last season and, despite interest from other clubs, Luke remains a Dolphin."

"Luke joined Poole Town in 2014/15 from AFC Totton where he was player-of-the-season."

Luke Burbidge is also staying put at The Black Gold Stadium – despite reported interest from Southern League outfit



Luke Roberts

Salisbury.

Burbidge has gone from strength to strength since stepping up from Sydenhams Premier Division outfit Hamworthy United at the start of the 2012/13 campaign.

Another fans' favourite, he has proved himself to be a great squad man, playing either in midfield, defence or rampaging down the wings – and scoring goals into the bargain.

"Apart from a few weeks at neighbours Weymouth, he has remained at Poole despite being a constant target for other clubs," said a Poole statement.

"This year was no different. He was made a very big offer to follow Marvin Brooks to Salisbury, but stayed loyal to the Dolphins."

"This, and the birth of his son earlier this year, are signs of his growing maturity, both on and off the field."

Pompey set for an Island friendly return



Kenny Jackett

NEWPORT IW will host newly-promoted League One outfit Portsmouth in a ten-year anniversary friendly on Tuesday, July 18 (7pm).

It was a decade ago that the Fratton Park club last crossed The Solent, drawing a record attendance of 3,112 to St George's Park.

Stuart Ross, chairman of the Sydenhams Premier Division club, said: "This will be a memorable day for Newport and we look forward to hosting such a huge club like Portsmouth FC in our last season at St George's

Park.

"I would like to thank Portsmouth FC's CEO Mark Catlin, manager Kenny Jackett and their club's backroom staff for securing this pre-season game with us."

"This will be an exciting day for football here on the Isle of Wight."

Ticket sales will be announced soon via Port's official website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

Pompey's last trip to Newport was on August 1, 2007, when Harry Redknapp's men emerged 7-0 winners spearheaded by two-goal

David Nugent.

New manager Jackett has trimmed down Portsmouth's list of pre-season fixtures, which kicks off at Steve Claridge's Salisbury on Saturday, July 1 (3pm).

The Fratton boys then travel to Havant & Waterlooville (Saturday, July 8, 3pm) and Richard Hill's Eastleigh (Saturday, July 15, 3pm) before entertaining AFC Bournemouth on Saturday, July 22 (3pm).

They then hit the road again to Crawley Town on Saturday, July 29 (3pm).

'Long shot' pays off

Craig is delighted

Wendy Gee



WINCHESTER City boss Craig Davis says he "couldn't be more pleased" to welcome Barry Blankley to his management team.

As a player, Davis had two of his most memorable seasons playing under Blankley at Bashley and at Salisbury City (where Blankley assisted ex-Saint Nick Holmes) and says he couldn't wish for a better right-hand man.

"I've known Barry a long time and two of my best seasons were with him," he said.

"Barry's done managing and assisting and he's recently been scouting (for Motherwell and Sheffield United) so he knows what he's looking at in a player, although he obviously needs to readjust because he's been working in the pro game."

Such is Davis's respect for Blankley that his name immediately sprang to mind when he began his search for a right-hand man, albeit that he wasn't overly confident of getting him.

"Initially I thought it was a bit of a long shot, but Barry said 'no, let's have a chat about it' and he's excited about the job," he said.

Often managers and their assistants play 'good cop, bad cop', but Blankley – an ex-pro with Saints and Aldershot – is a bit of both rolled into one!

"He's got great banter with the lads but, at the same time, you can't mess with him," said Davis.

"If he's got something to say, he'll come straight out and say it. He demands respect."



Barry Blankley.

● THE SOUTHERN Football League are changing the names of their two Step 4 divisions.

Division One South & West and Division One Central have been consigned to history.

Instead the likes of Winchester City, Salisbury and AFC Totton will play in the Evo-Stik South West, while Southern League new boys Moneyfields will take their

place in the Evo-Stik South East.

The Step 3 division, which includes Basingstoke Town and Gosport Borough, will be known as the Evo-Stik South Premier.

Meanwhile Evo-Stik's parent company Bostik have been unveiled as the new sponsors of the Isthmian League.

Their long-standing partnership with stationery company Ryman has come to an end after 20

years and, as of this season, the three divisions will be titled the Bostik Premier, Bostik North and Bostik South.

Dale Poulton, commercial manager of Bostik UK, said: "We've worked hard to get this deal in place."

"We have a proven relationship with this tier of football and believe it's the ideal platform to generate awareness of our brands."

NON LEAGUE



Claridge delighted at extra promotion place

SALISBURY boss Steve Claridge has welcomed news that there will be double the automatic promotion places available in the Evo-Stik Southern League South West this season.

As part of a major re-organisation of non-League football, the league have announced that two clubs will go up automatically from their two regional Step 4 divisions which have been renamed the Evo-Stik South West (formerly South & West) and the Evo-Stik South East (formerly Central) for 2017/18.

The changes stem from the FA's decision to introduce a new league at Step 3 level to add to the Southern Premier, Northern Premier and Isthmian Premier leagues for 2018/19.

As a result, 19 clubs will be promoted from Step 4 at the end of the forthcoming season as



Steve Claridge.

opposed to the usual 12.

Each of the six regional divisions of the Southern, Northern and Isthmian leagues will see the top two automatically promoted along with the third-placed team with the best points-per-game ratio across the six divisions.

The other six places will go to the winners of the play-offs, involving clubs who finish between third and sixth – or seventh in the case of the league with the best third-placed team.

Claridge, whose Salisbury side were beaten in last term's South & West play-off final by Tiverton Town at the Ray Mac having finished league runners-up, said: "It's good news.

"You've got to be happy when you get two chances to go straight up.

"In fact there are four chances to be promoted, what with the best third place and the play-offs.

"We know it will be tough again with the likes of Taunton and Evesham getting stronger, but we have to believe we can make it up this time around."

Salisbury are joined in the Evo-Stik South West by local sides AFC Totton, Winchester City and Wimborne Town.

'Brilliant' signing as Flocks returns to City



Rob Flocks

WINCHESTER City are delighted talented centre-back Rob Flocks will be plying his trade in the Southern League again this season.

It was with immense disappointment that City bade farewell to Flocks last September when, due to work and family commitments, he dropped out of the Southern One South & West to play for Alresford Town in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

The consensus of opinion was that Flocks, then 24, should have been heading up the pyramid rather than down it after playing an integral part in City's progress to the 2015/16 South & West play-offs.

Happy to see the ex-East-

leigh, Fawley AFC and AFC Totton man back to the Denplan, director of football Dave Malone said: "Flocks is a player with lots of ability and, in my opinion, could play higher, provided he stays fit and applies himself to the job in hand."

Team boss Craig Davis agreed: "It's a brilliant signing for us. Rob's still a young lad, but he's got great experience.

"He didn't have the best of seasons last year because of work stuff, but he's done some of our optional training sessions this summer and looks as fit as a fiddle now.

"There's a lot of talk saying he could play higher. I

think he wants to get his career back on track and it's great that he thinks this is the place to do it."

Davis, meanwhile, has confirmed that City's captain's and vice-captain's roles will be filled by established Winchester favourites.

Midfielder Jamie Barron will don the skipper's armband with Adam Tomasso as his deputy.

"Jamie was excellent with me when I came in (in March) and it's important to have players like him flying the flag for what we are trying to do," said the boss.

"It's the same with Adam Tomasso and Danny King. Cut them and they bleed Winchester City."

Davis: Why new faces are a 'coup'

Wendy Gee



CRAIG Davis is confident his former Fleet Town charges can deliver pace and goals for Winchester City this season.

New wideman/forward Simba Mlambo regularly hit double figures while playing for Davis in north Hampshire – and he is not the only one.

"He's the third player we've got now, along with Rob Carr and 'Chalky' White, who has got at least 15 or 20 goals a season," said Davis.

"If we didn't score other than through them, we'd be doing alright – but we've also got Oli Bailey (from Gosport Borough).

"We've lost the goals of Craig Feeney (now AFC Totton) and Stuart Green (now Salisbury) from last season, which is a shame, but we've replaced them in other ways."

Another summer arrival, right-back Dan Williamson, also has goals in his locker – not to mention blistering pace.

"I've got a good relationship with Bobby Wilkinson at Hungerford and he recommended Dan to me last pre-season," Davis explained. "Dan played the full season at right-back for Fleet and must have got eight or nine goals from open play.

"He's electric-heeled, really rap-



Winchester City manager Craig Davis.

id, and very attack-minded.

"Slough were keen on signing him, but I persuaded him to stay with me."

Having spent six years managing in the north of the county, Da-

vis has been able to tap into talent not widely known about in this neck of the woods.

Williamson, for example, has previously played for Marlow, Egham Town, Reading Town and

Beaconsfield SYCOB.

"Apart from Dan, who lives in Reading, a lot of these lads live locally but they've gone under the radar a bit," Davis explained.

"People aren't as aware of them because there's no real coverage of the Southern One Central Division down this way. They're more sought-after in the north Hants/London area, so signing them is a coup for us.

"Hopefully things will come together nicely.

"There's been a lot of talk about other teams, but not so much about us, but that's fine. We're looking at the longer term."

Brett Stanley, a versatile midfielder/right-back with more than four years' Southern League experience, has also hooked up with Winchester from Fleet, while City have identified winger Jack Ormiston from Whitchurch United as one for the future.

"I picked Brett up as a 16-year-old from Totton youth and he's still only about 20 with four or five years' Southern League football behind him. He's got a lot of experience for a young lad," said Davis.

"Jack's a young lad with an incredible attitude. (Chief scout) Pete Millard's been out looking at players for next season and Jack was on a long list that Pete came back with.

"He's probably a development player, but who knows how quickly he can develop?"

NON LEAGUE



Losing Marvin is a 'real body blow'

'Horrific' move for Dolphins striker

Paul
McNamara

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick says losing striker Marvin Brooks to Salisbury is a "real body blow" and adds it will be "horrific" for the player to drop two leagues.

Killick was certain Brooks would have been one of the National League South's foremost attackers next term, but understood the 27-year-old's decision to accept the "astounding" cash on offer at the Evo-Stik South West club.

He was, though, delighted that Brooks' fellow attacker, Luke Burbidge, resisted similar advances from the same club.

Body blow

"Losing Marvin is a real body blow, he's been with us for six years and been integral to our success in that period," said Killick.

"It's really important we don't allow his departure to cloud what he's done for us.

"He didn't want to leave. We had talked about next season and more or less resolved the financial terms for him to stay.

"I was confident Marvin would have been one of the best strikers in the National South next season and that's why it's so horrific that he will playing in the league he's going to.

Gratitude

"He doesn't want to play in that league but feels it's something he has to do because of the financial reward. I make no criticism of him for that.

"I want to emphasise my gratitude to him for the six years he has given us."

Killick drew enormous consolation



Marvin Brooks

from the excellent Steve Devlin joining midfielder partner Carl Pettefer in signing a deal to keep him with Dolphins next season.

Nevertheless, the manager knows he is up against it in his chase for a suitable replacement for the departed Brooks.

"Salisbury are paying National League money," Killick contin-

ued. "It's astounding, really, what they do in the league they're in – that's not a criticism, it's a compliment.

Catastrophe

"It must have been a catastrophe for them not to get out of that league and you would imagine they'll win it by 20 or 30 points

next season.

"But even if they do, Marvin will be playing at a level of football he shouldn't be the following year.

"I've lost one of the best strikers in the league and he'll be hard to replace. Salisbury also made a very big offer to Luke Burbidge but he has decided to stay and I'm very pleased about that."

Claridge hits back

STEVE Claridge has rubbished Tom Killick's claim that Salisbury are paying "National League money".

Killick, boss of National League South outfit Poole Town, made the comment after losing star striker Marvin Brooks to Claridge's Evo-Stik South West promotion hopefuls.

"That's absolute nonsense. A myth," said Claridge.

"I can't think of a club in the National League that would have more than half its squad on £140 a week or less.

"It's also a bit rich coming from a club which has been happily spending sums on wages to win promotions while the infrastructure is clearly not up to scratch."

As for Killick's suggestion that Brooks does not want to play in the Southern Division One but "feels it's something he has to do because of the financial reward", Claridge accused the Dolphins' boss of "disrespect."

Claridge said: "This is so far off the mark and Tommy is betraying his lack of knowledge of our club and our league and showing disrespect to both.

"Everybody seems to offer an opinion about our football club



Steve Claridge.

without knowing the true facts.

We are not paying fortunes, despite this view of us put about by those who have some sort of agenda or who guess at these things. "We will have the same budget as last year when we were a long way from being the highest payers in our league. Even if you take Hereford out, there were others paying more than us.

"We pushed the boat out for one player last year and that was Justin Bennett. When he decided to go to Oxford City, I knew we had to use his money for another big player and that player was Marvin Brooks, who will be on the same as Justin was last year.

"We cut our cloth according to the gate money we bring in from our fantastic average league crowds of 700, events, sponsorship and other revenue, as a report from our finance director has confirmed.

Claridge added: "To say that Marvin didn't want to play in our league is probably true as he wants to progress, as does Salisbury FC. He certainly wanted to play for me and this club. That was clear from our conversations.

"As for his money being 'astounding', well, when he told Poole he was leaving, all of a sudden they offered him the same money but he still wanted to go because of certain issues between him and the club.

"I think he realises that Salisbury FC have a lot of potential and I know he was disappointed that Poole were unable to take their place in the National League South play-offs."

CONTACT THE ECHO AT ECHOSPORT@DAILYECHO.CO.UK

NON LEAGUE



Second tier clubs to decide on new cup

SYDENHAMS One clubs have until Monday to decide if they would like to compete in a midweek supplementary cup competition this season.

Pewsey Vale and Fleet Spurs have both left the Wessex ranks, meaning games are in short supply for the remaining 19 second-flight teams.

Should clubs be agreeable, the league are happy to set up a cup competition, purely for

Sydenhams One sides, which will pad out the fixture list.

The proposed plan is to form three groups of five and one of four on a regional basis.

The group games, all local derbies, would be played this side of Christmas with a knockout phase to follow in the New Year.

Clubs have until Monday to email SWL fixture secretary Roger Allen with their verdict.

If enough are interested, the league will go to the Hampshire FA and request permission to run it.

"It's an effort to make up the four fixtures clubs are going to drop by virtue of us losing Pewsey and Fleet Spurs," Allen explained.

"With 34 Saturdays between August 5 and April 21, it doesn't take a genius to work out that clubs will have only two midweek league fixtures."

Sickness is no excuse

THE Sydenhams Wessex League have been handed the power to clamp down on unfulfilled fixtures this season.

From now on clubs will not be able to pull out of games claiming the playing squad have been struck down by a virus.

"Last season we had a spate of unfulfilled fixtures, but the rules have taken out the medical clause, so managers can't come to us now saying they can't get a team out because they've all gone down with flu," said SWL chairman Ian Hoare at Monday's secretaries and chairs meeting.

"This isn't coming from us, it's from the new, standardised (FA) rules."

In the event of an unfulfilled fixture, the board have several options – play the game/don't play

Pilot scheme to 'clean up' Wessex

Wendy Gee



FOUR clubs have been selected by the Sydenhams Wessex League to pilot their Equality Standard development plan.

AFC Stoneham, Sholing, Whitchurch United and Alton will lead the way in "cleaning up" clubs and making them more attractive to families and younger fans.

The league wish to make it abundantly clear that offensive language, abuse and discrimination will not be tolerated.

Bob Purkiss, the SWL's race relations/youth protection/development officer has warned clubs of incidents where individuals have been fined/suspended by the FA following third-party complaints by members of the public.

All Wessex clubs have been issued with a Respect Code of Conduct and an advice sheet reminding them to clamp down on bad language - on and off the pitch.

Purkiss told Monday's secretaries and chairs meeting: "A football ground is a place of entertainment.

"If you go to a pantomime at Christmas and the wicked witch comes on, you don't shout for her to 'f' off, do you?"

"It's the same with football.

"There's this myth that people can say anything they like at a football match and get away with it, but it's not true. Unacceptable language is unlawful in a public place.

"Third party people can write to the FA saying they've heard something said at a match and you can be charged by a special FA disciplinary committee.

"For the first offence it's a five-match suspension and £75 fine and you must attend an FA education course. FA rules E3 and E20 can also mean fines and penalty points against the club. They can



The Wessex League are aiming to make themselves more attractive to families and younger fans.

really hit you hard.

"I know of a case where a mother didn't like the way someone had referred to her son. She complained to the FA and it becomes very hard then to disprove that someone's said it.

"We're committed to being a family-friendly league and it's about you putting down the rules and limits within your clubs.

"This league has come a hell of

a long way in the last ten years and we're one of the few at our level to have achieved Equality Standard foundation level.

"The next stage is about you, the clubs, taking responsibility.

"Use your mouth to stop others using theirs."

In these days when social media is king, Sholing secretary Greg Dickson also pointed out the need for clubs, players and fans to mod-

erate their views/language on messageboards, Twitter etc.

"We're one of four clubs piloting equality," he said. "We're looking to highlight this to supporters by putting signage stuff on our website, social media pages, the matchday programme and so on.

"Technically anything can be offensive and we want to encourage people not to get clubs into trouble."



Ian Hoare

it, fine the club that didn't put a team out, deduct three points from the club that didn't put a team out, award three points to the club that wanted to play.

"Any fine would be decided by the board," said Hoare.

"If there's a real problem, the board would have the discretion to alter the finding, but managers can't just say they can't get a team out any more."

Fawley AFC chairman Kevin Mitchell alluded for a rule change last season.

He said at the time: "Four or possibly five teams have cancelled fixtures because they say they can't get a side out and, in some cases, they've gone on and won the rearranged game.

"A number of clubs have said they think it's unfair.

"Is it really a case of clubs not being able to get a side out, or is it just that they can't get a good enough side out?"

NON LEAGUE



How the non league pyramid is expected to look in 2018/19 ...

Step 1

National League (24)

Step 2

National League North (22)
National League South (22)

Step 3

Northern Premier (22)
Evo-Stik Premier (1) (22)
Evo-Stik Premier (2) (22)
Isthmian Premier (22)

Step 4

NPL North (20)
NPL South (20)
Evo-Stik (South East) (20)
Evo-Stik (South West) (20)
Isthmian North (20)
Isthmian South (20)
Isthmian (new) (20)

Step 5

(All Divisions = 20 teams)

Combined Counties Premier
Eastern Counties Premier
Essex Senior
Hellenic Premier
Midland Premier
North West Counties Premier
Northern Counties East Premier
Northern League Div.1
Southern Combination Premier
Southern Counties East Premier
Spartan South Midland Premier
United Counties Premier
Sydenhams Wessex Premier
Western Premier

Step 6

(Recommended levels 18-20)

Combined Counties One
Eastern Counties
Hellenic One East
Hellenic One West
Midland One
West Midlands Regional Premier
North West Counties One
Northern Counties One
East Midlands Counties
Northern League Two
Southern Counties One
Southern Counties East One
Spartan South Midlands One
United Counties One
Sydenhams Wessex One
Western One
South West Peninsula

*There are proposals to introduce two more Step 7 leagues.

Wessex League top flight is set to shrink

NEXT summer's major non-League shake-up will result in the Sydenhams Wessex Premier Division being shrunk from 22 to 20 teams for 2018/19.

In a bid to encourage more Step 5 (Wessex Premier level) clubs to climb the pyramid, two new divisions are being introduced higher up.

The Isthmian League will manage and control a new Step 4 division (equivalent of Evo-Stik South West), while the Southern League will have a new Step 3 division (equivalent of Evo-Stik South Premier) under their charge.

The FA's first major restructuring of the game since 2004, it aims to iron out geographical anomalies and cut down on travelling costs for clubs and fans alike.

In total 276 clubs currently playing in Steps

1-4 will increase by 20 to 296.

The reshuffle will see the three current Step 3 divisions of 24 clubs grow to four divisions of 22, while the six Step 4 divisions currently run by the Northern Premier, Southern and Isthmian leagues will rise from 136 clubs playing in six divisions to seven 20-strong divisions.

To achieve that aim, only the bottom clubs in the current Step 3 divisions will be relegated at the end of 2017/18.

In addition, only the clubs finishing last in the six existing Step 4 divisions will be relegated next term, with 26 clubs coming up from Step 5.

Ian Hoare, pictured, chairman of the Sydenhams Wessex League, told Monday's secretaries and chairs meeting: "There are huge changes to

the pyramid coming with new divisions at Steps 3 and 4.

"They're going to be looking for a lot of teams and, in my opinion, we'll lose three from our Premier Division to help them make up the numbers.

"We will go to 20 Premier Division teams in 2018/19 and hopefully 20 in Division One. That's the new numbers at our level."

Warning his member clubs to brace themselves for change, Hoare added: "Whatever they (the FA) do, please don't be surprised.

"But as long as we've got 20 Premier clubs, we will still operate with three up, three down."

John Ward, FA Council Representative, confirmed: "It's quite possible you (the Wessex League) will lose two clubs to promotion dependant on what happens above. There will be some demotions and some reprieves.

"The maximum number of clubs will be 20 at Step 5 and 18-20 at Step 6. If leagues want 20 at Step 6, it's up to them to fight for that."



'Wessex League must fight its corner' - Ward

Wendy Gee



AS an old friend of the Sydenhams Wessex, the last thing John Ward wants to see is clubs being picked off by rival leagues.

So it was out of concern that the former Hants FA chairman this week urged Wessex officials to fight their corner and ensure the SWL remains a force to be reckoned with at Steps 5 and 6 of the non-League pyramid.

Ward, serving his last year as the HFA's elected representative to the FA Council, told Monday's SWL secretaries and chairs meeting: "One thing that does concern me is the drift of clubs, in particular clubs in the north of the Wessex area.

Moved sideways

"The league has lost two this year - one to the Hellenic League (Pewsey Vale) and one to the Combined Counties League (Fleet Spurs) - and a few others have moved sideways in the past.

"You also had Newbury going out of the league and then not coming back to the Wessex and it was the same with Thatcham Town.

"It's time for the league to fight its corner. No club should be drifting sideways without the agreement of both leagues involved."

Ward is particularly worried



John Ward.

that a handful of clubs at the Wessex extremities are finding themselves increasingly out on a limb - and thus prime for the picking.

"There are now about eight clubs in the north of the area al-

most becoming isolated from the rest of the league," he pointed out.

"I'm very concerned that other leagues will try and exploit that and pick them off. And, before

you know it, you (the Wessex League) will find yourselves confined to a 20-mile strip along the south coast.

"I really think it's time to look at the long-term.

"You (the Wessex League) were fortunate that you managed to get Alton back (from the Combined Counties) because Jim McKell, their chairman, is very keen on the Wessex League.

"But, at this rate, I'm sure you're going to come under further pressure," he warned.

"All your clubs comply with the ground grading, whereas in some other leagues they don't.

"They'll see it as an opportunity to pick off some ready-made clubs with grading."

While appreciating Ward's concern, SWL chairman Ian Hoare believes the Sydenhams set-up has much to recommend it.

"A: We don't ask for any money from you (the clubs), whereas other leagues do," he said.

"And B: We have one of the lowest travelling averages in the whole of Step 5/6. Last time it was worked out, it averaged 66 miles a trip which is a lot less than most.

"We're a damn sight better league than most of them and I often get calls from other league chairmen asking how we do what we do," Hoare continued.

"We all work hard and we don't want to lose anyone," he told the meeting, pledging: "We will fight to keep you."

NON LEAGUE



Hampshire Cup final hero Alex leaves 'Stoke



Alex Tokarczyk

ALEX Tokarczyk, hero of Basingstoke Town's Hampshire FA Senior Cup win at St Mary's, has signed for Vanarama National League South outfit Whitehawk.

The 24-year-old goalkeeper played a starring role in the county showpiece at Southampton last month as Basingstoke saw off AFC Bournemouth's development squad in a penalty shootout.

A crowd of more than 1,500 saw Tokarczyk save two spot-kicks to carry the Southern

Premier Division outfit to a 7-6 victory.

Basingstoke did not have the budget to keep the former Reading and Falkirk player this season with manager Terry Brown admitting: "Alex is a very, very good 'keeper looking to play at the next level."

"I thought he had an outstanding season which culminated in a trophy win."

Also new in at Jimmy Dack's Whitehawk is 21-year-old defender Ed Sanders.

Born on the Isle of Wight, Sanders began his career at Portsmouth before joining the Stoke City academy where he captained The Potters' under-18 side.

A spell at Sheffield Wednesday followed before he moved back down south, featuring for Farnborough, Bognor Regis and Gosport Borough.

Sanders's father, Vic, played for Cowes Sports, Newport and East Cowes Vics.

The most important meeting in club history

BASINGSTOKE Town will take another big step in securing their long-term future next Tuesday night.

A fans' forum will take place at the Camrose Ground with the goal of moving the club towards community status.

The forum, which kicks off at 7pm, is being billed as the most important meeting in the club's history.

Basingstoke are looking for three individuals to join an initial community board of six.

The other three will be existing members of the Interim Management Group - ex-Isthmian League chairman Alan Turvey, Steve Williams and Will Wilkinson.

The initial board will be in place for six months and then a full election will held to put together a team of 12 to run the club thereafter.

The main aim of the new



The Camrose

board will be to raise funds to increase the playing budget and they will have their own bank account.

The club have been working closely with Supporters Direct to make sure they have the correct model which will work for Basingstoke Town.

The changes are needed because current owner Rafi Razzak is ceasing funding as of this season and also wants to sell the Camrose.

Basingstoke's CEO David Knight said: "This is an exciting time for the club."

"A community club means fans can have a share and a vote in the future of their club."

"We hope people will come forward on Tuesday who can take this club forward."

"There is a lot of work to be done, but it's a proven model which has worked well at other clubs."

Ian delighted with new Salisbury role

Wendy Gee



IAN HAMMOND has been elected new Salisbury chairman following an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders.

Hammond, who joined the board last season and was a well-known business figure in Salisbury until his retirement last year, replaces David Phillips who has been voted off the board.

Under FA regulations, the club must operate with a chairman.

"I'm delighted the board has placed their faith in me," said Hammond. "I will do my best to serve the club and make it successful on the field and sustainable off the field."

A Tranmere Rovers supporter, Birkenhead-born Hammond qualified as an actuary in 1973 and left Merseyside two years later to join UK Provident in Salisbury.

He became managing director of James Hay in 1986 and two decades later led a management buy-out of part of the business to form a new company, Rowanmoor Group PLC, where he remained managing director until retiring last summer.

Out-going chairman Phillips was unable to attend the EGM but a statement from him was read out. It confirmed that he no longer felt able to work with certain members of the board.

A Salisbury FC statement said: "The club would like to thank David Phillips for his hard work in helping to form Salisbury FC and then establishing it on the footballing map again, first as Wessex League champions, then as



Ian Hammond

runners-up in Evo-Stik Southern South & West Division last season."

Ian Ridley has been re-elected onto the board and will again assume the role of vice-chairman, overseeing administrative, public relations and commercial matters.

Thom Belk's hard work has

been recognised with the role of general manager.

A financial report from new chairman Hammond stated that, contrary to speculation in some parts, the club's finances were in good shape.

There had been a small loss on last season, which was covered by directors and the profit made in

the club's inaugural campaign.

Manager Steve Claridge has been allocated the same budget as last season.

A fans' forum will be held in the Sarum Suite at 6pm next Saturday (July 1) following the pre-season friendly with Portsmouth (3pm).

PINK

MND - the figures ...

Former Scotland lock Doddie Weir has revealed he is suffering from motor neurone disease (MND).

The retired 46-year-old's announcement comes four months after ex-South Africa scrum-half Joost van der Westhuizen died at the age of 45 following a long battle with the illness.

Here, Ella Pickover explains the condition ...

Motor neurone disease affects around two in every 100,000 people in the UK. It is a devastating progressive brain condition suffered by top physicist Professor Stephen Hawking.

The condition describes a group of diseases that affect the nerves in the brain and spinal cord that tell a person's muscles what to do. It progressively damages parts of the nervous system which leads to muscle weakness, stiffening and waste.

Motor neurones control muscle activity, including walking, gripping, speaking, swallowing



Doddie Weir

and breathing.

As the condition progresses, people with motor neurone disease will find some or all of these activities increasingly difficult.

Eventually, a person with motor neurone disease may be unable to move. Talking, swallowing and breathing may also become very difficult.

Most people with the condition first develop symptoms in their 60s and it affects slightly more men than women.

There are around 5,000 people living with the condition in the UK at any one time.

There's currently no cure for motor neurone disease.

For around half of people with the condition, life expectancy is three years from the start of symptoms, but some people may live for up to a decade.

The symptoms of MND begin gradually, usually on one side of the body initially, and get progressively worse.

Common early symptoms of MND include: a weakened grip; trouble lifting the arm, slurred speech, dragging of the leg and a "foot drop" caused by weak ankle muscles.

It is still not clear what causes the condition.

Cup draw gaffes, and an enthusiastic Rod!

The graphics gaffe following the draw for the first round of the Carabao Cup - where Charlton appeared twice - is not the first time strange things have occurred during a cup draw.

Here are some other oddities:

2007 SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Scottish Parliament presiding officer Alex Fergusson (not that one!) mixed up the numbers and miscalled the ties when drawing out just four balls. He announced that Rangers would play Aberdeen, while Hearts would face Dundee United. The actual ties were Rangers against Hearts and Aberdeen versus Dundee United.

1982 WORLD CUP DRAW

Sepp Blatter, general secretary of FIFA at the time, presided over one of the more farcical draws. Chaos

ensued after a series of cock-ups which saw the balls representing Peru and Chile completely left out of the draw, Scotland were put into the pot Argentina should have gone into and the cage containing the balls jammed, with one even falling out and breaking.

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP DRAW

The draw for this competition has a recent history of howlers. In 2013 Radio 5 live presenter Richard Bacon mispronounced Workington as Woking Town and Hull KR were announced as playing two different opponents.

Two years later, the figures on the number 10 ball fell off, while in 2016 the name of East Leeds ARLFC was read out twice and Stanningley's name was not read out at all.

2016 SCOTTISH CUP DRAW

Back to football, and back to Scotland. Scottish FA officials were left red-faced again after being forced to re-do the quarter final draw.

Dumbarton and Dundee were waiting to find out who they would play, only for SFA president Alan McRae to notice that a ball had already popped open.

2016 SCOTTISH CUP DRAW...AGAIN!

Rock legend Rod Stewart conducted last season's fifth round draw with much, shall we say, enthusiasm.

The singer caused a stir with his bizarre antics, appearing to jokingly prod SFA president Alan McRae under the podium and drawing each team with a flamboyant gesture. The Celtic fan bellowed out the numbers he had drawn and let out a cheer when he gave Brendan Rodgers' side a home tie.

Why England's future is bright ...

England became only the second team to complete a series clean sweep in Argentina despite being without no fewer than 30 senior players due to injury, suspension and call-ups with the British and Irish Lions.

Eddie Jones' men overcame the odds in following up their opening 38-34 victory in San Juan with an even more impressive 35-25 success in Santa Fe. Here, the Sports Pink looks at the major talking points of the series.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Jones handed out 11 new caps and most of them seized their opportunity to press their claims for a place in his 2019 World Cup squad. Five of them would have been in the Under-20s team which still managed to reach the World Championship final. Players like Sam Curry, Charlie Ewels, Sam Underhill and Piers Francis laid down a marker for the future.

EXPERIENCED GUYS HAVE STILL GOT IT

Largely through necessity, Jones ended up with the perfect balance of youth and experience which eventually saw off the dangerous Pumas. Full-back Mike Brown, half-backs George Ford and Danny Care and forwards Joe Launchbury and Chris Robshaw all made significant contributions and proved their determination to play key roles in the 2019 World Cup. Launchbury is still only 26 but now has 44 caps and the 6ft 6in Wasps lock grew in stature on the tour. His combination with the improving Ewels was one of the highlights of the second Test win, especially the way he produced a half-break and delicate offload to



George Ford.

get his second row partner over for the first try.

FORD IMPRESSES

Ford was the man of the series, having grabbed the opportunity to step out of the shadow of Owen Farrell. The former Bath fly-half, who will return to Leicester next

season, marshalled the youthful England side superbly and it was his game management, in addition to superb marksmanship, that proved the difference in the end between two closely matched teams.

QUESTION MARKS

REMAIN ABOUT SOLO-MONA

Much was expected of former league winger Denny Solomona who, on the back of scoring a Super League record 40 tries for Castleford in 2016, was fast-tracked into the England squad after touching down 11 times in 15 games for Sale. But it was impossible to draw many conclusions from his two cameo appearances. He had half-an-hour in the first Test, in which he recovered from a nightmare start to score the match-winning try with a glimpse of his scoring ability, but went on only for the last 14 minutes in Santa Fe.

JONES IS A HARD TASK-MASTER

The man management skills of the 57-year-old Australian came to the fore on this tour. He knows when to chide and when to praise and winger Marland Yarde appeared to be the constant butt of his well-intended barbs. Even the young guns were firmly kept on their toes, with debutant Sam Underhill revealing the coach's particular attention to detail. "You are always getting picked on," he said. "Even when you think you have had a really good training session, you will get picked up for something you didn't notice. There's no such thing as a perfect performance. There are always areas to improve on." Jones also demonstrated there is no room for sentiment in professional sport in the case of young hooker Jack Singleton, who paid for his mother and brother to fly out to watch the games only to witness him sit on the bench throughout both of them.

PINK

KP happy to have been a trailblazer

Kevin Pietersen insists he is happy to have been the trailblazer for English players wanting to play franchise cricket - even if it saw him painted as the "bad guy".

The 36-year-old one-time Hampshire batsman has not played for England in the last three-and-a-half years after being exiled in early 2014.

While Pietersen was always keen on a return to international cricket, he has made a name for himself playing Twenty20 cricket around the globe.

He turned out for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the inaugural Indian Premier League and has gone on to play T20 cricket in the Caribbean, Australia, South Africa and Pakistan.

Now Pietersen has been announced as one of eight marquee players for South Africa's T20 Global League.

The England and Wales Cricket Board previously took a hard line with individuals who wanted to play in the lucrative IPL, with former coach Andy Flower citing Pietersen's desire to participate as the catalyst for his acrimonious fall-out in 2012.

Times have changed and England's centrally-contracted players are free to play, with Ben

Stokes named player of the series in the recent tournament.

Speaking at the launch event for the new franchise competition, which is due to begin later this year, Pietersen said he has no issues with being ahead of the curve and ending up at loggerheads with the ECB as it paved the way for others to follow suit.

"I'm lucky to have these T20 tournaments where I can still produce on the big stages. This is the environment I have been in since 2008," he said.

"It is the environment that got me in trouble with all the big bosses, this is the environment where it is now being applauded and they are willing to risk injuries for players to participate for the experience.

"This got me in a lot of my trouble. I was promoting it and saying we needed to get more English players into the set-up.

"I was painted as the bad guy and I'm totally cool with it because the public can see the picture that is now being rolled out.

"It is nice to see the youngsters, (Chris) Woakes going out there, Stokes going out there. I was out there commentating and it is great to see these youngsters doing what they do, it was absolutely fantastic and I couldn't be

happier."

Pietersen, who appeared sporadically for Hampshire between 2005-2010, has also played for Surrey in recent years but revealed this summer could be his last in England as he looks to focus on things away from the cricket pitch.

He said: "Next year I'm building a house in the Kruger national park so all of next summer I will be at my house in South Africa - so I won't be playing in England. I think this will be my last stint in England.

"Surrey have been so good to me, I was in there the other day doing a photo-shoot with someone and it felt like I hadn't left the dressing room but I hadn't been there in 18 months.

"I go back training in a couple of weeks time and I can't wait, it is something I'm looking forward to, it is not a schlep, it is something I am really excited about."

Pietersen also backed Joe Root to be a success as England's new Test captain, heading into this summer's series against South Africa.

"He is the only man to take England forward," he said.

"I don't see anyone else doing it. Everything Joe has done so far in his career has been A-grade."



Kevin Pietersen.

Timberlake forces GP change

Formula One's new owners have taken the unprecedented step of changing the sport's schedule to accommodate a Justin Timberlake concert at October's US Grand Prix.

Pop star Timberlake is due to perform at the Circuit of the Americas on the evening of Saturday, October 21, and following a request by promoters of the Texas race, qualifying on that day will be moved back by two hours.

The circuit organisers hope the move will encourage fans to stay and watch the concert which now follows the conclusion of qualifying.

It means the one-hour session, that determines the grid for a race which could prove pivotal in Lewis Hamilton's bid for a fourth world title, will now take place at 4pm local time.

Formula One fans in the UK will be forced to wait until 9pm BST to watch the action unfold, rather than the original 7pm start.

Liberty Media, the American conglomerate which took control of the sport at the start of the year, hopes its flexibility with the timetable will encourage other promoters to stage grands prix in the United States.

It is understood that some of the teams were against the rescheduling. Indeed final practice will still take place at 11am, meaning there will be a four-hour wait before the start of qualifying.

A F1 spokesperson said: "The intention is to provide a better and more inclusive fan experience across the Grand Prix weekend and in so doing help promoters reach out to a more diverse cross-section of fans.

"This will be therefore a unique opportunity for music fans to experience and share in the excitement and drama of a Formula One qualifying session."

Arter will be fit for new season

EDDIE Howe is confident Harry Arter will be fit for the start of the new campaign.

Arter played through the pain barrier during the final few games of last season having been troubled by a nagging ankle complaint.

A key man as Cherries secured a ninth-place finish in the Premier League, the 27-year-old also had to manage his injury on international duty with the Republic of Ireland.

He was named man of the match in their win over Uruguay in a friendly before playing his part in a 1-1 draw with Austria in a crucial World Cup qualifier earlier this month.

Arter, who is currently in talks regarding a new contract with the club, is due to report back for the start of pre-season training with Cherries at the end of next week.

Howe's squad will initially be put through their paces at Vitality Stadium before



Harry Arter

embarking on a 10-day training camp in southern Spain.

Howe said: "Harry is experienced enough to know his own body.

"We anticipate he will be 100 per cent fit by the time the season starts."

Arter's involvement in friendlies, though, could be restricted.

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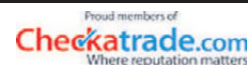
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If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE
FOR POSTAL
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Thursday
9am,
29th June
2017
Names of
winners will be
published on
Saturday,
1st July 2017

An incident in an Eastleigh v York

Winners

Competition number S25

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R Cummins	Eastleigh, Hants	D Randall	Southampton, Hants
M Davis	Romsey, Hants	J Sell	Southampton, Hants
D Divers	Botley, Hants	C Snellgrove	Eastleigh, Hants
D Feher	Southampton, Hants	W Taylor	Southampton, Hants
D Forder	Southampton, Hants	D Thomas	Southampton, Hants
J Franklin	North Baddesley, Hants	R Travers	Southampton, Hants
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PINK

5 things you didn't know about Brooks Koepka



Brooks Koepka.

New US Open champion Brooks Koepka became the seventh successive first-time winner of a major with his victory at Erin Hills.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at the man behind the golfer.

UNLUCKY BREAK - A 10-year-old Koepka sustained a broken nose and fractures to his sinus cavity when he was involved in a car accident, resulting in him being banned from playing contact sports for the summer. He took up golf as a suitable alternative, enrolled in a junior programme and that helped start him on his career path.

GOLF'S NOT HIS DREAM JOB - Despite

his success Koepka is not a golf nerd and admits "golf is kind of boring". Given the choice he would have been a baseball player like his great uncle Dick Groat, a World Series winner with both the Pittsburgh Pirates and the St Louis Cardinals. He is also a fan of "proper football" and names Manchester United as his favourite team along with basketball franchise the Los Angeles Lakers.

SIBLING RIVALRY - Brooks has a brother called Chase who is also a professional golfer. However, whereas Brooks has just broken into the world's top 10 Chase is 865 places behind. The pair played with each other in April's

Zurich Classic, a two-person team event. "We could either kill each other or it could be an awesome week," Brooks said. They finished tied fifth.

FAMOUS FOOTSTEPS - Koepka failed to earn a PGA Tour card at the 2012 qualifying school, missing out by three strokes in the second stage alongside a certain Jordan Spieth, whom he is now only one behind in terms of major wins.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER - Koepka's girlfriend Jena Sims is a former Miss Georgia Teen pageant winner who moved into acting and has worked with Morgan Freeman, Robert De Niro and Michael Douglas in the film Last Vegas.

FA help for Grenfell

Proceeds from this summer's Community Shield match at Wembley will be donated to those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

The FA says it is hoped that the match will raise around £1.25million for the victims of the tragedy and their families.

The FA will also invite the families of the victims, survivors and emergency service personnel to the game between Arsenal and Chelsea on Sunday, August 6.

FA chairman Greg Clarke said: "Whilst only a football match, we hope that in some small way through the Community Shield we can help. Two great London clubs will come together to play at the city's most famous stadium just a few miles from Kensington. They will be united in their passion for football, grief at this tragic loss and support for their community. "Football is for all, and we hope that on August 6 it can in its own way give something back to those who are most in need."

Where's it all gone wrong?

Andy Murray's disappointing year continued on Tuesday as he bowed out of the Aegon Championships first round to world number 90 Jordan Thompson.

Murray must now try to regain confidence in time for the defence of his title at Wimbledon, which starts on July 3.

Here, the Sports Pink answers the key questions around the Scot's dip in form.

How significant was Murray's Queen's loss?

Murray is not the first big name to endure a surprise loss on grass this summer. Roger Federer was beaten in the first round in Stuttgart last week while Stan Wawrinka and Milos Raonic were both out of Queen's before Murray had even come on court.

When players switch surface they are often vulnerable against opponents who, as with Jordan Thompson, have more matches under their belts.

But grass is Murray's favourite surface and at his best he would never lose to a player like Thompson, even taking into account the Australian's brilliant performance on Tuesday.

Murray's summer will be judged on his results at Wimbledon but this was not a good start.

What is wrong?

Murray's defeat to Thompson was his ninth in 2017 and sixth against an opponent ranked outside the top 20.

It seems a world away from the end of last year when he stormed to the top of the world rankings by winning five tournaments on the bounce.

Certainly fatigue looked to be a factor at the start of this year; when the new season began before Murray was able to take a long enough break.

But motivation seems also to have played a part. Murray has admitted that after reaching world number one, some of the fire in him perhaps no longer burned as strong.

On a technical level, the Briton's forehand and serve have both been unreliable and they failed him again on Tuesday.

Why is he still world number one?

Murray's strong end to 2016 gave him a sizeable lead at the top of the ATP rankings, which work on a rolling basis, meaning players have to defend points they won the previous year and can gain at tournaments they fared worse in.

Murray was less successful in the first half of 2016 so the impact of his stuttering form has been re-

duced but he will be more vulnerable from Wimbledon onwards as he will have far more points to defend.

Rafael Nadal is the principle threat at SW19. The Spaniard only has points to gain after missing Wimbledon through injury last year and could snatch top spot if Murray fails to defend his title.

Wawrinka and Novak Djokovic are also in contention but each have bigger gaps to make up.

Can Murray still win Wimbledon?

A poor build-up to the French Open became largely irrelevant as Murray still reached the semi-finals at Roland Garros before succumbing over five sets to Wawrinka. There is no doubt the British number one is still among the favourites at the All England Club but he will be hoping for a kind early draw so he can at least play his way into the tournament.

Any awkward opponents in the first week will certainly be licking their lips after Murray's latest loss.

Federer stands to gain if Murray is not at his best, the Swiss chasing his 19th grand slam title and eighth at Wimbledon, where he has most often produced his best tennis.

Nadal is not so well-suited to grass but is the man in form following his 10th French Open triumph.

Murray may well have to beat either or both to lift the trophy.



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HANTS CRICKET



Liam Dawson (Dave Vokes Photography)



Mason Crane (Dave Vokes)



AB De Villiers made 65 not out (58 balls) out of South Africa's 142-3



Mason Crane appeals for an lbw (PA)

Liam & Mason stifle De Villiers

Simon
Walter



MASON Crane and Liam Dawson gave AB de Villiers a poor welcome to The Ageas Bowl when they bowled in tandem for England on home turf.

Leg-spinner Crane lived up to his billing as a future Test star as England won the opening match of the T20 series against South Africa by nine wickets.

Crane (4-0-24-0) and Dawson (4-0-17-0) conceded just 11 runs each against De Villiers, from 11 and 15 balls respectively.

Debutant Crane, who at 20 is Hampshire's youngest international, was unfortunate not to dismiss the South Africa captain after tricking him into a leading edge earlier in his final over.



Mason Crane and Liam Dawson (Dave Vokes Photography)

"It was nice to be in familiar surroundings and it helped to have Daws at the other end - we bowled really well together, like we do for Hampshire," said Crane.

Crane was left out as South Africa levelled the series with a three-run win at Taunton last night, with Dawson (4-0-38-1) more expensive on Somerset's small ground.



Mason Crane (PA)



Jonny Bairstow faced just 35 balls for his unbeaten 65 (six fours, two sixes)

HANTS CRICKET



A day-night four-dayer at The Bowl

Simon
Walter



HAMPSHIRE director of cricket Giles White is "intrigued" by the first day/night Specsavers County Championship match to be played at The Ageas Bowl.

All nine Championship matches will start at 2pm next week, with pink balls used for the first time as the England and Wales Cricket Board tries to attract a new audience to its first-class competition.

Hampshire used the pink Kookaburra ball for the first time earlier this month, albeit with a much-changed side missing Kyle Abbott and Gareth Berg, in their 251-run defeat against South Africa A at The Ageas Bowl.

"The seam's more pronounced but it didn't swing an awful lot and there wasn't much seam movement," said White.

"We expected it to do a bit more in the evening twilight so it'll be interesting to see how it goes.

"The overhead conditions will play a part it may be more seam dominant because of the time we're playing.

"But the intriguing thing for us will be seeing if it attracts more supporters.

"Hopefully we'll see a few come in after work. Compared to other first-class competitions around the world it's well followed, especially online, and relatively speaking our crowds aren't too bad.

"But the timings obviously limit how much people can come. Whether there's longevity in it, we'll see. It'll certainly be interesting."

Hampshire's players had Friday off after their innings-and-30-run defeat against Lancashire at Old Trafford, but will be practising with the pink ball today and tomorrow.



Matt Salisbury bowling with a pink ball for Hampshire against South Africa A, June 2017. Photo by Neil Marshall

"We'll be practising in the evenings over the weekend to get used to how the ball behaves at those times," explained White, who is hoping his players adapt to play-

ing three hours later than they are used to.

"The boys will need to lie in as much as possible because they are long days, but the body clocks won't

always allow that.

"It's often difficult to switch off after a floodlit limited-overs game with the adrenaline still going but hopefully we'll get into a pattern."

Dawson back for Hants - but no Crane



Liam Dawson

LIAM Dawson and Brad Wheal are set to be recalled for Hampshire's day-night Specsavers County Championship match against South Africa A two weeks ago should stand him in good stead.

With Crane unavailable, Wheal may be Hampshire's only bowler with experience of the pink ball in match conditions against Somerset.

He is likely to replace trialist Matt Salisbury, who struggled to contain Lancashire's batsmen at Old Trafford.

beaten)games.

A back injury has limited him to just one first-team match, but his experience of the pink ball against South Africa A two weeks ago should stand him in good stead.

Wheal would have played this week but his recent injury meant

that was not a realistic option.

"Brad would have had his overs restricted against Lancashire because of the time since his injury but he comes back into our thinking for Somerset," said director of cricket Giles White.

Reece Topley and Fidel Edwards are unavailable due to "a lack of game time" but the latter will be playing for the 2nd XI against Sussex at Horsham next week.

Hampshire (from): Carberry, Adams, Rossouw, Vince, Bailey, Ervine, Dawson, McManus, Berg, Abbott, Wheal, Holland, Taylor, Alsop, Smith.

Results and fixtures '17

APRIL

2-4 Cardiff MCCU (h) FR
Hants 289 (Carberry 100, Ervine 58) & 271-6d (Vince 90, Alsop 52) drew with Cardiff 98 (Hart 3-17) & 110-2.
7-10 Yorkshire (a) CC1
Yorkshire 273 (Edwards 3-58) & 187 (Abbott 7-41), Hants 141 & 321-6 (Adams 72). Hants won by 4 wickets
14-17 Middlesex (h) CC1
Middlesex 456 (Wheal 4-98) & 278-9 (Abbott 5-59), Hants 438 (Rossouw 99, Carberry 98, Abbott 56, Ervine 53). Drawn.

21-24 Yorkshire (h) CC1
Hampshire 455 (Vince 147, Berg 99no), Yorkshire 231 (Berg 4-62) & 399-6 (Abbott 3-65). Drawn

27 Kent (a) 50L
Kent 258 (Topley 3-65), Hants 260-4 (Alsop 112no, Vince 69). Hants won by 6 wickets.

30 Essex (a) 50L
Essex 304-7, Hants 279 (Vince 68, Bailey 63). Hants lost by 25 runs.

MAY

3 Middlesex (h) 50L
Middlesex 295 (Gubbins 114, Topley 4-68) beat Hants 146-7 (Bailey 52no) by 89 runs (D/L)

7 Gloucestershire (h) 50L
Hampshire 239-3 (Vince 89*) beat Gloucs 237 (Dawson 3-30) by 7 wickets

10 Somerset (a) 50L
Hampshire 250-6 (Rossouw 156) beat Somerset 249 (Berg 3-44) by 4 wickets

12 Glamorgan (h) 50L
Hampshire 332-6 (Vince 178) lost to Glamorgan 334-7 (Crane 3-69) by 3 wickets

14 Surrey (a) 50L
Hampshire 271-8 (Bailey 145no) lost to Surrey 238-2 by 66 runs (D/L)

17 Sussex (h) 50L
Match abandoned

19-22 Essex (a) CC1
Essex 360 (K Abbott 5-58) beat Hampshire 115 & 148 by an innings and 97 runs.

26-29 Somerset (a) CC1
Hampshire 162 & 293 (Carberry 51) beat Somerset 197 & 168 (Crane 5-40) by 90 runs

JUNE

2-5 Warwickshire (h) CC1
Hampshire 515 (Adams 166, Ervine 203) beat Warwickshire 254 & 167 by an innings and 94 runs

8-11 South Africa A (h) FR
South Africa A 370-7d & 185-1d beat Hampshire 185 & 119 by 251 runs.

19-22 Lancashire (a) CC1
Hampshire (395 & 168) lost to Lancashire (593) by an innings and 30 runs

26-29 Somerset (h) CC1
JULY

3-6 Surrey (a) CC1
7 Glamorgan (a) T20
12 Sussex (a) T20

14 Middlesex (h) T20
20 Sussex (h) T20
21 Essex (a) T20

23 Surrey (h) T20
26 Somerset (a) T20
28 Gloucestershire (a) T20

AUGUST
1 Kent (h) T20
3 Middlesex (Lord's) T20
4 Essex (h) T20

6-9 Lancashire (h) CC1
10 Glamorgan (h) T20
11 Kent (a) T20

18 Somerset (h) T20
22-25 T20 QF
SEPTEMBER

2 T20 Finals Day
5-8 Surrey (h) CC1
12-15 Middlesex (a, tbc) CC1

19-22 Essex (h) CC1
25-28 Warwickshire (a) CC1
Key

CC1 - Specsavers County Championship division one, 50L - Royal London One-Day Cup, T20 - Natwest T20 Blast

LOCAL CRICKET



Light stars as Hook win off last ball

Former Fareham captain Kevin Light played a significant role in Hook & Newnham Basics' last ball 208-run tie with Bishops Waltham in the top flight of the Hampshire League.

He top scored with 57 as Hook their 208 (Ben Allnutt 37) and then ran out Philip Dalton off the last ball of the match to tie the scores.

Haider Khan (57) and Gareth Lovett (31) put BW in the box seat at 117-2, but wickets tumbled and at 146-7 Hook looked to have the points in the bag.

Sam Medhurst (36) and Dan Wheeler (16) titled the balance, but at



Kevin Light.

187-9 it was odd-on Hook again.

Bishops' last pair added 21 to tie the scores after 49.5 overs – when Light pounced with a run out to tie the match.

Harry Trussler's 65 steered St Cross Symondians III to a six-wicket win over hosts OTs & Romsey, while the moon was up and shining bright on the Isle of Wight at 8.30pm when Ventnor's match with Rowledge II eventually ended.

Ventnor's 318-5 was built around a hefty stand between 16-year old Ben Attrill (73) and Charlie Sammons (74), who came together after Adam Wilson (52) had made a half-century at the top of the innings.

Rowledge were dismissed for 250, with Joe Scullion whacking four sixes in a late 45-run blast.

Now it's Ryde's turn at the top ...!

Mike Vimpany



It's tight at the top of Hampshire League, County Division 1 with the leadership having changed hands three times already this month.

Only eight points separated the top five clubs in going into today's round eight matches, with Ryde the third club to wear the yellow in successive weeks.

Ironically, Ryde were relegated last year after a wretched debut season in Southern League Division 3.

They benefitted from an unexpected 78-run loss by Ropley, the overnight leaders, at promoted Hythe & Dibden.

Ryde cashed in with a thumping eight-wicket win at Sarisbury, who look to have a massive fight for survival on their hands.

Ben Gregory (4-45) and Sam Rockley (3-19) did the damage as Sarisbury were dismissed for 188 – a total Ryde gleefully polished off with Ben Wadmore (79 not out) increasing his run tally for the season to 392 from seven knocks, and Rockley hitting 45.

Ropley's unbeaten tag disappeared when Hythe beat them in rather bizarre circumstances at Jones Lane.

The Watersiders were on their way to a powerful 298-7 when Sam Redford ruptured his Achilles running a single and later Aaron Oliver joined him in casualty having been smacked in the face by the ball in the field.

New Zealander Tarin Mason struck 99 and enjoyed a key stand with Tom Richards (63) as Hythe piled up 298-7.

That was a total Ropley seldom threatened despite a classy 94 by Alex Stogden, an innings Water-side locals reckoned was as good as they've watched for some time.

Portsmouth & Southsea lost their unbeaten tag to Longparish the previous week, but wheeled out Lincolnshire Minor Counties batsman Conrad Louth against United Services.

The 28-year old, arguably Lincolnshire's most prolific run scorer, didn't disappoint, whacking 187 – clearing the Burnaby Road



Tarin Mason hit 99 for Hythe and Dibden.



Conrad Louth and, right, Reece Abrams.



boundary six times alongside scoring 21 fours.

With fellow opener Jack Davies (38) and Tom Benfield (52) chipping in, P & S posted a towering 344-5.

US, still without a win, made a creditable 266-9 in reply, with opener Tom May (61) and John Parker (53) chief run-getters.

Good news for County 1 clubs, however, is that due to work commitments, Lough is only set to

play a handful of games.

Lymington II, who entertain P & S at the Sports Ground today, remained in the picture with a Jack Roberts inspired 44-run win at Burridge.

Roberts made an unbeaten 104 and with Oli Kelly (55) and Glenn Willoughby (46) chipping in, Lymington posted 261-7. Burridge replied with 217-7.

The surprise result of round 7 was the seven-wicket battering

unpredictable Shrewton gave Longparish, who ended Portsmouth & Southsea's start with a 329-run salvo of their own seven days previous.

The boot was on the other foot this time, with Paul Clancy (7-19) ploughing into Longparish, who were shot out for 98 and hand-somely beaten after Sam Gillett's unbeaten 56 completed the formalities.

Western Australian teenager Reece Abrams has proved a lucky charm for Fareham & Crofton.

Before his arrival from the WACA Grade club Bayswater-Morley, Fareham lost both their opening games. They've won every one of the five subsequent matches the 17-year old has played.

Abrams, who motivates himself by listening to Justin Bieber music, starred in Fareham's emphatic 141-run win over New Milton, hitting a crisp 88 before taking 3-19 with his leg spin.

Youngsters Ben Kissane (44) and Morgan Frost (32) also made their mark as Fareham amassed 269-7 before Ben White weighed in with 3-24. Milton made 128 in reply.

Love local cricket? Don't miss Mike Vimpany's Southern Premier League reports and scoreboards in the Daily Echo every Monday and Tuesday - and weekend previews appear every Friday.

LOCAL CRICKET



Havant skipper Ben leading from the front



Ben Walker

Havant skipper Ben Walker is leading from the front in the ECB Southern Premier League run scoring stakes.

His 433-run tally includes 112 against the Hampshire Academy and four other fifty-plus scores, while Bashley Rydal's South Australian Patrick Page, also a left-hander, has made 406.

Burridge left-armers Brighton Mogochi is enjoying a fine debut SPL season and has so far taken 17 wickets.

Leading performers -

Premier Division
Batting: 433 Ben Walker (Havant), 406 Pat Page (Bashley), 307 Scott Myers (Alton), 284 Ed Ellis (Lymington), 280 Logan van Beek (St Cross), 279 Stu Ransley (Havant)

Bowling: 17 Brighton Mogochi (Burridge), 14 Richard Lock (Lymington), 14 Logan van Beek (St Cross), 13 Brad Taylor (Havant), 13 Matt Metcalfe (Lymington).

Division 1
Batting: 291 Mitchell Stokes (Basingstoke), 280 Ben Johns (Calmore), 266 Tom Treble (Rowledge), 259 Jordan Hobday (Hook), 259 Fraser Hay (Portsmouth).

Bowling: 18 Mark Lavelle (Calmore), 17 Aniket Divecha (Hook), 15 Jack Rutter (Calmore), 15 Robbie Pack (Bournemouth), 15 Dom Clutterbuck (Bournemouth).

Division 2
Batting: 282 George Marshall (Hambledon), 257 James Bills (Paultons).
Bowling: 15 Jeremy Frith (Sparsholt), 15 Robert Pittman (S Wilts).

Division 3
Batting: Tom Lerner (Gosport B), 304 Lee Harrop (Gosport B) 298 James Hurtle (Waterlooville), 282 Phil Morris (Bashley II), 256 Matt Brown (Fawley).

Bowling: 17 Chris Chandler (Basingstoke II).

Anxious wait for Jordan

Hook & Newnham Basics all-rounder Jordan Hobday is awaiting a scan after suffering another serious and potentially career-threatening injury to his right knee.

He was carried off the Church Road ground at Rowledge last week and taken to hospital after his right leg gave way as he attempted to make a fielding stop off his own bowling during Hook's 38-run Southern League victory.

Hobday, who has twice undergone surgery on his knee in the past, had just taken the wicket of Rowledge's Australian centurion Tom Treble when the injury occurred.

To compound his agony, Hobday was earlier trapped leg before for a first ball duck, but he did bounce back with the wicket of Rowledge opener Nick Morant and had figures of 2-37 when his day (and his season) came to a premature end.

Hobday's injury took the gloss off a fourth successive win by Hook, who moved into second place in Division 1 behind leaders Calmore Sports.

"It really is a bitter and sad blow. We've all watched Jordan battle back from his injuries before," reflected a sombre Hook captain Ben Thane.

"He's been enjoying a fine season too and his form with both the bat and ball was a prime reason for us being second in the log."

Tough trip for Havant

Havant are going to have to pull out all the stops this Sunday if they are to progress beyond the regional group stages of the ECB Royal London club championship.

They are paired away to Normandy, currently third in the powerful Surrey Championships, in the zone final, the winners of which progress into the last 16.

Havant have enjoyed success at national level in the past, being knocked out by Weybridge last term, but significantly journey to Normandy's picturesque ground, just off the Hog's Back near Guildford, without key all-rounder Richard Hindley.

Nonetheless, Hindley apart, they are more or less at full strength.

Havant: Walker, Ransley, Gorvin, Stone, Gibson, Bullard, Prentice, Morgan, Matthews, Loat, Hopson.

Southern Premier League pair Liphook & Ripsley and Rowledge hope home advantage will be key in tomorrow's opening Watson's Village Championship.

Liphook, minus Glastonbury-bound skipper Charles Janczur and opening batsman Rob Nicklin, host 2013 Lord's finalists

Rockhampton, who lie mid-table in the West of England's Premier League's Gloucestershire/Wiltshire feeder division.

Rowledge field six players under-21 years of age against Sussex League Division 2 opponents Mayfield, who won the East Sussex group.

All the ties start at 1pm.

Nash targeting next milestone

Mike Vimpany



The dust had barely settled on Kevin Nash celebrating his 400th Southern Premier League wicket when the evergreen Bashley (Rydal) seamer was told another bowling milestone was at his finger tips.

The 41-year old etched his name in Premier League annals when he had St Cross Symondians opener Tom Foyle caught at slip to become only the sixth bowler to achieve the feat.

He finished Bashley's crushing 197-run victory with a timely 4-27 return.

"It was timely too, because I'd been stuck on 399 since the end of last season," Nash laughed.

"I didn't expect to have to wait till mid-June before I took my first SPL wicket of the season, but it's nice to have your name up there among the leading bowlers."

Dan Goldstraw, Julian Ballinger, Richard Hindley, James Hibberd and Matt Metcalfe are the other bowlers to have taken 400 or more Premier League wickets.

Nash went with Bashley to Andover today with 403 scalps dangling from his belt - but that tally doesn't include the wickets he took playing in the old Southern League.

"As a long haired Brockenhurst College student, I was part of the Bashley team that won the Hampshire League back in the mid-1990s and actually made my Southern League debut in 1995, ironically against South Wilts," he recalled.

Premier League stats-man Mike



Kevin Nash

Rose reveals Nash took 83 wickets for Bashley between 1995 and 1999, when the competition became ECB accredited.

"If my maths are correct, I've

got 485 wickets in total, so I'll have to try and get those last 15 this season," he smiled.

"I'll have to ensure the selectors know as competition for new-ball

places is hot now we've got Bradley Currie and Tom Barber in the same attack - but hopefully there's room for an experience 41-year old right armer."

Ireland's main men ...

The International Cricket Council has granted Ireland full member status.

Ireland have beaten the likes of England, Pakistan and West Indies in limited-overs formats in the past but they take a step into the unknown when it comes to Test cricket.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of the players who could don the whites for Ireland in the Test arena.

WILLIAM PORTERFIELD (captain) - Currently Ireland's captain, Porterfield is a left-handed top-order batsman who plays for Warwickshire. A veteran of 106 ODIs and 56 Twenty20 internationals, Porterfield is Ireland's leading run-scorer in both formats.

PETER CHASE - Chase is a fast bowler who plays for Leinster in Cricket Ireland's Inter-Provincial Championship. Has also represented Durham.

ANDY BALBIRNIE - Batsman Balbirnie was released by Middlesex last season after requiring hip surgery and currently plies his trade for Leinster.

GEORGE DOCKRELL - Having made his international debut at the age of 17, Dockrell made an impression with his left-arm spin at



William Porterfield

the 2010 World Twenty20. He failed to make the grade at Somerset and now operates for Leinster.

ED JOYCE - Accomplished left-handed stroke-maker who has played for both Ireland and England at international level. He played for England at the 2007 World Cup and then switched allegiance back to Ireland in time for the 2011 edition. Joyce also enjoyed an impressive county career with Middlesex and Sussex before returning home to play for Leinster.

BARRY MCCARTHY - Fast bowler McCarthy was recommended to Durham by Ben Stokes after the England all-rounder faced him in the nets.

TIM MURTAGH - An evergreen seamer, former England Under-19 international Murtagh has forged an impressive county career with Surrey and Middlesex, qualifying for Ireland based on his grandparents in 2012.

KEVIN O'BRIEN - Best known for his brutal 50-ball century in Ireland's shock victory over England at the 2011 World Cup. He has played 112 ODIs and 59 T20 internationals and now plays for Leinster.

HANTS CRICKET

When the Aussies

Simon Carter



England faced South Africa this week in the fifth T20 international to be staged at Hampshire's Ageas Bowl.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the first four.

England v Australia June 13, 2005

Prior to the England v Australia Ashes series that was to become legendary, a slice of history was recorded at the home of Hampshire Cricket.

The stadium - then only four years ago - was chosen as the venue for England's first ever T20 international against the Aussies.

It was only the second T20 international ever - Australia having faced New Zealand four months earlier.

And it remains one of the most amazing games ever to be staged at the Ageas Bowl.

After posting an impressive 179-8 off their 20 overs, England sensationally reduced the Aussies to 31-7.

Yes, Australia were 31 for 7!

They eventually recovered somewhat, but were still routed for 79 - England running out winners by 100 runs.

At the time, Kevin Pietersen was just a few months into his Hampshire career.

The South African-born batsman was being heavily touted for a Test call, having made a remarkable impact in an ODI series in his native country earlier in the year.

Pietersen was voted man of the match here for hitting 34 off 18 balls, with three fours and a six.

That wasn't England's highest score, for opener Marcus Trescothick had earlier struck 41 off 37 balls.

England used wicket-keeper Geraint Jones as an opener, alongside Trescothick, while Test opener Andrew Strauss went in at No 7 - one place ahead of another top order bat, Vikram Solanki.

Australia advanced to 23-0 in reply before an astonishing collapse saw seven wickets fall for just eight runs.

Nobody at the ground there that day will ever forget it.

Adam Gilchrist was first to go, caught by Pietersen off Darren Gough.

The very next ball, Matthew Hayden departed - again caught by Pietersen off Gough.

Two balls later, Michael Clarke was out for a golden duck - caught by Andrew Flintoff off Gloucestershire bowler Jon Lewis.

Two balls after that, it was 24-4 when Andrew Symonds fell - Pietersen pocketing another catch off Lewis.

It was 24-5 when Michael Hussey became Gough's third victim, caught by Flintoff.

England then claimed the huge wicket of Ricky Ponting, out for a three-ball duck - Trescothick showing safe hands to give Lewis another wicket.

It was then 31-7 - after just 5.5 overs - when Lewis snaffled his fourth wicket, Trescothick again providing the catch.

Tailenders Jason Gillespie (24) and Brett Lee (15) added 36 for the eighth wicket, before both fell in quick succession to Paul Collingwood.

After 14.3 overs, Glenn McGrath was



Geraint Jones, Jon Lewis, Kevin Pietersen, Michael Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick celebrate a wicket in 2005. Right - Liam Dawson (centre) on his T20 international debut last year.

clean bowled by Steve Harmison and the Aussies were 79 all out.

It was a stunning success, but even more memorable wins were around the corner as England regained the Ashes for the first time in 18 years.

England v Sri Lanka June 15, 2006

England fell two runs short of Sri Lanka's 163 total when the Ageas Bowl hosted its second T20 international two years later in front of a crowd of 20,000.

Sanith Jayasuriya top scored with 41 as the tourists - playing their first ever T20

international - were bowled out off the last ball of their allocated 20 overs.

Paul Collingwood bagged 4-22, including the key wickets of Jayasuriya and Kumar Sangakkara (21). At the time it was the best ever figures in a T20 international.

England were also boosted by the Mahela Jayawardene being run out for a first ball duck.

Sri Lanka's total was still too good for the hosts, though.

Even though Marcus Trescothick clubbed 72 off 58 balls, England could only manage 161-5.

Kevin Pietersen, no doubt eager to impress his home crowd, hit 17 off 16

balls while skipper Andrew Strauss, now opening in T20s alongside Trescothick, hit 33 off 21 balls.

But when Trescothick was run out by the quick-thinking Kumar Sangakkara in the penultimate over the target proved too much for Geraint Jones and Tim Bresnan in a thrilling finish.

England v Australia August 29, 2013

Aaron Finch smashed a Twenty20 record 156 off just 63 balls as Australia beat England by 39 runs.

The opener blasted an incredible 14

HANTS CRICKET



were 31-7!



sixes and 11 fours to help Australia record their first win of the summer over England and a first international victory in 200 days.

One-time Hampshire overseas player Shane Watson's 16-ball 37 lifted Australia to 248-6 - at the time the second highest T20 international score.

Joe Root scored 90 not out off 49 deliveries as England ended on 209-6.

Finch looked set to break South African Richard Levi's record for the fastest international T20 century - 45 balls - but faltered for a couple of deliveries before finally bringing up his ton with a six to fine leg off his 47th ball.

Once he reached his century, Finch

accelerated again, hitting a six to move past the previous international best of 123 by New Zealand's Brendon McCullum.

He took just 13 balls to move from 100 to 150, reaching the landmark with another maximum.

England v Sri Lanka July 5, 2016

James Vince failed to shine in front of his home crowd, but Liam Dawson did as England raced to an eight-wicket victory over Sri Lanka.

Asked to chase just 142 for victory, opener Jason Roy was out for a duck in

the first over and Vince was stumped after making 16 from 14 balls.

But Jos Buttler, who opened, belted an unbeaten 73 from 49 deliveries - with three fours and four sixes - and shared an unbroken third wicket stand of 114 with skipper Eoin Morgan (47 not out).

Buttler's innings overshadowed an impressive England T20 international debut from Hampshire all-rounder Dawson.

One of two debutants - Tymal Mills was the other - Dawson bagged 3-27 as Sri Lanka were dismissed for 141.

All of Dawson's victims - including skipper Angelo Matthews - were top order batsmen.

t20 international scoreboards

England v Australia, June 2005

England
ME Trescothick c Hussey b Symonds 41
+GO Jones c Kaspruwicz b McGrath 19
A Flintoff c Symonds b Kaspruwicz 6
KP Pietersen c Hayden b Clarke 34
*MP Vaughan c Ponting b Symonds 0
PD Collingwood c Ponting b McGrath 46
AJ Strauss b Gillespie 18
VS Solanki c Hussey b McGrath 9
J Lewis not out 0
Extras (1 lb, 2 nb, 3 w) 6
Total (8 wickets, 20 overs) 179
Fall of wickets: 1-28 (Jones, 3.5 ov), 2-49 (Flintoff, 5.5 ov), 3-100 (Pietersen, 10.5 ov), 4-102 (Vaughan, 11.2 ov), 5-109 (Trescothick, 13.1 ov), 6-158 (Strauss, 18.2 ov), 7-175 (Solanki, 19.4 ov), 8-179 (Collingwood, 20 ov)
Bowling: Lee 3-0-31-0, McGrath 4-0-31-3, Kaspruwicz 3-0-28-1, Gillespie 4-0-49-1, Clarke 3-0-25-1, Symonds 3-0-14-2

Australia
+AC Gilchrist c Pietersen b Gough 15
ML Hayden c Pietersen b Gough 6
A Symonds c Pietersen b Lewis 0
MJ Clarke c Jones b Lewis 0
MEK Hussey c Flintoff b Gough 1
*RT Ponting c Solanki b Lewis 0
DR Martyn c Trescothick b Lewis 4
B Lee c Harmison b Collingwood 15
JN Gillespie c Trescothick b Collingwood 24
MS Kaspruwicz not out 3
GD McGrath b Harmison 5
Extras (1 lb, 2 lb, 2 nb, 1 w) 6
Total (all out, 14.3 overs) 79
Fall of wickets: 1-23 (Gilchrist, 2.4 ov), 2-23 (Hayden, 2.5 ov), 3-23 (Clarke, 3.1 ov), 4-24 (Symonds, 3.4 ov), 5-24 (Hussey, 4.4 ov), 6-28 (Ponting, 5.1 ov), 7-31 (Martyn, 5.5 ov), 8-67 (Gillespie, 10.3 ov), 9-72 (Lee, 12.1 ov), 10-79 (McGrath, 14.3 ov)
Bowling: Gough 3-0-16-3, Lewis 4-0-24-4, Harmison 2-3-0-13-1, Flintoff 3-0-15-0, Collingwood 2-0-8-2.

England won by 100 runs.

England v Sri Lanka June 2006

Sri Lanka
ST Jayasuriya lbw b Collingwood 41
WU Tharanga b Collingwood 34
*DPMD Jayawardene run out 0
TM Dilshan c Jones b Dalrymple 2
+KC Sangakkara c Strauss b Collingwood 21
RP Arnold b Collingwood 7
CK Kapugedera c Pietersen b Mahmood 22
MF Maharoof run out 8
SL Malinga c sub b Plunkett 13
CRD Fernando run out 3
PDRL Perera not out 0
Extras (1 lb, 3 lb, 2 nb, 6 w) 12
Total (all out, 20 overs) 163
Fall of wickets: 1-75 (Tharanga, 7.5 ov), 2-75 (Jayawardene, 8.1 ov), 3-84 (Jayasuriya, 9.5 ov), 4-84 (Dilshan, 10.1 ov), 5-102 (Arnold, 11.6 ov), 6-117 (Sangakkara, 13.5 ov), 7-136 (Maharoof, 15.5 ov), 8-154 (Kapugedera, 18.4 ov), 9-161 (Malinga, 19.4 ov), 10-163 (Fernando, 20 ov)
Bowling: Bresnan 2-0-20-0, Harmison 4-0-29-0, Mahmood 4-0-34-1, Plunkett 4-0-37-1, Collingwood 4-0-22-4, Dalrymple 2-0-7-1

England
ME Trescothick run out 72
+AJ Strauss b Fernando 33
*KP Pietersen c Malinga b Jayasuriya 17
PD Collingwood c Jayawardene b Dilshan 5
JWM Dalrymple c Sangakkara b Jayasuriya 1
+GO Jones not out 14
TT Bresnan not out 6
Extras (6 lb, 1 nb, 6 w) 13
Total (5 wickets, 20 overs) 161
Fall of wickets: 1-59 (Strauss, 7.3 ov), 2-89

(Pietersen, 11.6 ov), 3-109 (Collingwood, 14.3 ov), 4-114 (Dalrymple, 15.1 ov), 5-152 (Trescothick, 18.4 ov)
Bowling: Perera 3-0-28-0, Malinga 3-0-25-0, Fernando 4-0-22-1, Maharoof 4-0-30-0, Jayasuriya 4-0-32-2, Dilshan 2-0-18-1
Sri Lanka won by two runs.

England v Australia August 2013

Australia
DA Warner c Buttler b Broad 1
AJ Finch b Dernbach 156
SE Marsh c Lumb b Briggs 28
SR Watson b Dernbach 37
GJ Maxwell b Dernbach 1
*GJ Bailey lbw b Finn 1
+MS Wade not out 15
JP Faulkner not out 5
Extras (2 lb, 2 w) 4
Total (6 wickets, 20 overs) 248
Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Warner, 1.2 ov), 2-125 (Marsh, 10.3 ov), 3-226 (Finch, 17.2 ov), 4-227 (Watson, 17.4 ov), 5-228 (Bailey, 18.1 ov), 6-242 (Maxwell, 19.1 ov)
Bowling: Finn 4-0-45-1, Broad 4-0-47-1, Dernbach 4-0-34-3, Briggs 4-0-51-1, Bopara 1-0-15-0, Root 1-0-27-0, Wright 2-0-27-0

England
MJ Lumb lbw b Johnson 22
AD Hales c Wade b Hazlewood 8
LJ Wright c Wade b Hazlewood 4
EJG Morgan c Maxwell b Johnson 0
JE Root not out 90
RS Bopara c Warner b Watson 45
+JC Buttler b Faulkner 27
*SCJ Broad not out 4
Extras (1 lb, 2 nb, 6 w) 9
Total (6 wickets, 20 overs) 209
Fall of wickets: 1-33 (Lumb, 2.6 ov), 2-33 (Hales, 3.1 ov), 3-37 (Wright, 3.3 ov), 4-42 (Morgan, 4.3 ov), 5-137 (Bopara, 13.4 ov), 6-203 (Buttler, 19.3 ov)
Bowling: Johnson 4-1-41-2, Hazlewood 4-0-43-2, Fawad Ahmed 4-0-43-0, Watson 4-0-42-1, Faulkner 4-0-39-1.

Australia won by 39 runs.

England v Sri Lanka June 2015

Sri Lanka
MDKJ Perera c Mills b Plunkett 13
MD Gunathilleke c Jordan b Dawson 26
BKG Mendis c and b Dawson 21
*AD Mathews b Dawson 11
+LD Chandimal c Morgan b Jordan 23
MD Shanaka run out 1
RLB Rambukwella run out 19
S Prasanna c Buttler b Plunkett 1
MF Maharoof c sub b Jordan 10
KMC Bandara not out 2
ANPR Fernando b Jordan 0
Extras (1 lb, 9 lb, 3 w) 13
Total (all out, 20 overs) 140
Fall of wickets: 1-17 (Perera, 2.6 ov), 2-58 (Gunathilleke, 6.5 ov), 3-74 (Mendis, 8.5 ov), 4-81 (Mathews, 10.3 ov), 5-82 (Shanaka, 10.4 ov), 6-106 (Rambukwella, 14.2 ov), 7-122 (Prasanna, 15.5 ov), 8-129 (Chandimal, 17.2 ov), 9-140 (Maharoof, 19.5 ov), 10-140 (Fernando, 20 ov)
Bowling: Jordan 4-0-29-3, Mills 4-0-22-0, Plunkett 4-0-27-2, Dawson 4-0-27-3, Rashid 4-1-25-0

England
JJ Roy b Mathews 0
+JC Buttler not out 73
JM Vince st Chandimal b Mathews 16
*EJG Morgan not out 47
Extras (1 lb, 7 w) 8
Total (2 wickets, 17.3 overs) 144
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Roy, 0.3 ov), 2-30 (Vince, 4.5 ov)
Bowling: Mathews 4-0-27-2, Rambukwella 2-3-0-27-0, Maharoof 3-0-26-0, Prasanna 4-0-31-0, Gunathilleke 1-0-9-0, Fernando 2-0-12-0, Bandara 1-0-11-0.

England won by eight wickets.

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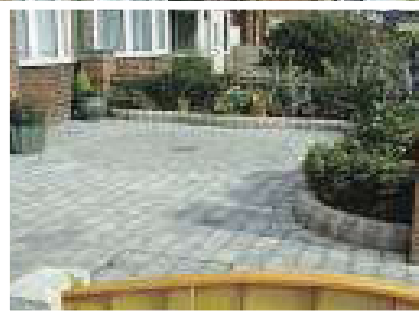




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LOCAL FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA ... ARE YOU FEATURED



Manor Wasps. Back (from left): Rob Cashman, Rob Lindsay, Danny Kneller, Josh Clarke, James Clarke, Rich Kendall. Front: Sean Parker, Corey Martin, Brendon Ramsey, Jamie Lockhart, Andy Oliver, Aaron McClean



Lyndhurst: John Ranargh, Lee Allen, Wayne Hughes, Dave Boyde, Lee Renyard,, Lee Allen, Wayne Hughes, Dave Boyde, Nick Cremin, Rob Tipp, Nick Alp, Mel Farmer, Dave Elgom. Front: Wayne Allen, Jez French, Gerry Browne, Sean Browne, Barry Kimber, Simon Edwicker, Dexter McLean.



Academicals. Back (from left): Dominic, Mike Blackney, Paul Doswell, Simon Wilkinson, Dan Stout, Paul Hedges, Simon Clunes and Ian Butcher. Front: Neil Blackbury, Carl Farrell, Chris Hutchinson, Emmett English, John Hutchinson, Jason Bradbury



Allbrook FC.



Horns Inn. Back (from left) Malc Gedded, Alex Gray, Paul Osbourne, Shane Smith, Shane Dawson, Rocky Cooke, Darren, Glenn Parker, Mark Bulley(manager). Front: Kevin Potheary, Shawn Hutton, Steve Baker, Seamus McManus, Wayne Marchant, Pete Biddlecombe



Aalco. Back (from left) Ceri Lacey, James Fry, Matty Cox, Rob Evans, Andy Bone, John Brown, Mitch Stanconbe . Front:: Craig Johnston, Ben Mackinnon, Justin Christie, Steve Allen, Dean Christie



AFC Station. Back (from left): Mike Hillier, Darren Darley, Steve Pendry, Dave Wells, Ben Bowers, Mike King, John Urquhart. Front: Gareth Harris, Dave Cooper, Ross Urquhart, Jamie Moss, Chris Eager, Adam Allinson



AFC Millwool. Back (from left): Steven Weeks, Anthony Blake, Terry King, Ben Ashmore, Phil Ashmore, Shaun Hamilton, Dave Crabb, Craig Smith, James Alexander, Manager Lee Nowacki, Colin Scott, Leroy Jackson, Clive Yeates, Vinny Milson, Dan Bartlett, Nathan Isaacs, Shane Thompson

IN ANY OF THESE TEAMS (2007-2014)?



East Boldre. Back (from left): Dave Smith, Jordan Clark, Bradley Cron, Gary Durnn, Ashton Payne, James Hawes, Mike Strickland, Daniel Ross, Dean Floyd, Kevin House. Front: Ryan Upborne, Nathan Gray, Ricky Ambrose, Chris Cowan, James Oliver, Dean Thomas.



City Plumbing. Back (from left): Kevin Price, Mike Bulman, Alan Gates, Ashkan Karimzadeh, Nima, Shaun Peters, Tiggy Stringer, Darren Beckett, Dominic Tendell, manager Martin Watts. Front: Peter Atkinson, Simon Young, James Wilmott, Matthew Gardener, Ben Jerram, Grant King, Richard Dinnage.



Compton. Back (from left): Matt Burrell, Pete Snelling, Asa Leatham, Elliot Greenslade, Matt Lloyd, Chris Cheesbrough, Ady Andrews. Front: Andrew Mash, Dave Phillipson, Oli Mordecai, Joe Parnell, Jimmy Marsh, Liam Bridle.



Chartwell. Team only - Back (from left): Alex Mauld, Dave Fowler, Nick Litchfield, Simon Ross, Jimmy Lord, Daryl Powell, Dan Johnson. Front: Mike Cole, Sam Lovvell, Kevin Lawrence, Scott Cook, Josh Ramsey, Tim Powell, Stuart Skelton



Capital FC. Back (from left): Dan Roger, Paul Burke, Ed Ruswa, Russ Andrews, James Brown and Andy Penso. Front: Mike Tudgan, Lucas Gregory, Oliver Stoneage, Dave Brockson, James Hobbs..



Botley. Back (from left): Stephen Blackburn, Norm Steel, Dave Rowe, Danny Smith, Craig Wilson, Deon Holdaway, Darren Randell, Andy Wakeley, Adam Deacon, Pat Williams, Les Barnes. Front: Chris Berry, Ian Perrett, Andy Blackburn, Jimmy Dixey, Matt Davies, Brett Ciupek.



Ampthill Athletic. Back (from left): Liam Graddidge, Brad Griffith, Graham Crow, Sam Fitzgerald, Stuart Wyatt, Chris Broomfield, Jack Evans, Lewis Taylor, manager Phil O'Donovan. Front: Asst. Manager Simon Durkin, Dean Gray, Jake Gale, Adam Hughes, Matty Reed, Kyle Brown.



Bishopstoke. Back (from left): Dave Makoto, Chris Emery, Ben Macken, Luke Owens, Danny France, Matt Smith, Josh Carey, Lee Tollervey, Gary Fowen, Nick Hill. Front: Luke Martin, John Cole, Dave Phillpot, Raf Gil, Matt Lynch.

LOCAL FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA (2007-2014) - ARE YOU



Lord Nelson. Back (from left): Chris Nichols, Dan Pilnicki, Craig Shellard, Sam Burrow, Ben Murphy, Ben Bolton, Colin Shepherd (assistant manager). Front: Matt Ley, Sean Burrow, Lee Shepherd, Paul Wilkinson, Aaron Fry, Matt Hawkins.



Landguard. Back (from left): Steve Berrill, James Dillon, Andrew Herod, Paul Maxwell, Matthew Herod, Matthew Whale, Matthew Penfold, David Boardman. Front: Laurent Coquet, Nathan Bysgrave, Charlie Neodeous, David Cann, Greg Mann, Ian McCarthy.



London Airways. Back (from left): Frazer Dergwell, Simon Dickinson, Rob Wildey, Paul Upton, Ada McClenaghan and Damon Preece. Front: Derek McKenzie, Dan Houds, Jim Robertson, Steve Tongue, Ross Faulkner and Paul Camden.



Ice Sports. Back (from left): manager Dave O'Dell, Tony York, Mike Nailor, Martin Petterson, Craig Holloway, Danny Sillence, Liam Wing and Daniel Harrison, assistant manager Mark Reeves. Front: Jason Gradidge, Dan Smith, Stuart Laxton, Tom O'Dell, Ashley Houland, Ben Harris.



London Airways reserves. Back (from left) Clem Lopez, Calum McClenaghan, Al Carey, Rob Wildey, Darren New, Matt Capper, Paul Upton, Nick Ewing. Front: Tom Harrison, Leo Ruscello, Dave Rogers, 'Mo', James Tollerfield.



Hythe. Back (from left): Liam Collymore, Jamie Jones, Rob Davis, Martin Clouder, Neil Jenkins, Pat White, Mike Wilson and David Tubb. Front, Tony York, Tom Cox, Geoff Toussmat, Martin Beazley, Jamie Martin and Brendon Beazley..



Langley Manor. Back (from left) Paul Weeks, Daniel Tamblin-Blake, Sam Churchill, Brendan Raffai, Darren Stone and Dave Bullpit. Front: Glynn Castle, Mark Fry, Lee Lloyd, Rich Manders, Mark Bunday.



HWB. Back (from left) Mark Ryne, Tom Young, Daniel Kent, Nada Al-Ani, Lloyd Hackett, Luke Jones (front) Adam Kaploner, Paul Charman, Joe Saunders, James Flood, Mark Doree, Duncan Rogers.

PICTURED IN ANY OF THESE TEAMS?



Chartwell. Back (from left): WAG Kerryann Thomas, Shaun Grant (assistant manager), Alex Mould, Mike Thorn, Sunny Jones, Bradley Chapman, Simon Ross, Alex Evans-Hunt, Aiden McLaughlin, Gary Klepp Mike Thomas (manager). Front: Nathan Gibson, Josh Evans-Hunt, Kev Lawrence, Simon Cox, Elven Pearce, Callum McIntyre.



Holbury Vets. Back (from left) Nobby Wells, Richie Coxall, Pete Williams, Chris Tona, Mark Best, Andy Morton, Ron Glass. Front: Dave Sayce, Mark Gibbons, Carl Hargreaves, Steve Jay, Paul Eldridge, Alan John..



Freemantle.



FC Winston. Back (from left) Chris Beech, Dan Burgess, Alex Roswell, Rich Baker, Ian Ninghichie, Steve McNamara and Ben Thorpe. Front: Paul Gregory, Martin McCallum, Dave Peckham, Dave Vella and Kev Cull.



Hop. Back (from left): Steve Wilson, Martin Wilson, Chris Maddock, Neil Phillpots, Richard Emblem, Jamie Crewson, Darren Hay and Tom Chutter. Front: Russell Foldwell, Nathan Richardson, Steve Bell, Luke Osmand, Shane Thompson, Jason Garcia, Luke Drinkwater.



Hedge End Veterans. Back (From left): Dave Kimber, Neil Burton, Andy Thornton, Shaun Ford, Marcus Fitzgerald, Steve Doyle, Mark Jenvey, Ian Nance. Front: Steve Downton, Mike Wilding, Kev Mason, Mark Cousins, Neil Wyatt, Ian Snelling..



Freemantle AFC. Back (from left) John Urban, Kevin Munday, Graham Goater, Mark Le Brocq, Jason Cowley, Kevin Coledridge, Niall Boden, Neil Minns and Brian Yeo. Front: Craig Moorey, Jason Munday, Sam Wheildon, Greg Ainsworth, Ian Hunt, Richie Crow and Pete Munday.



Eastbrook Harriers. Back (from left) Manager Gary Burgess, Ben Johnson, Dan Harket-Burgess, Ben Wells, Dipesh Joshi, Craig Proudley, Chris Purchase. Front: o name on list), Tom Goold, (no name on list), Ross Borer, Steve Potter, Gareth Smith.

LOCAL FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA (2007-2014) - ARE YOU



Rownhams



Rising Sun. Back (from left) Martin Franklin, Steve Lynch, Terrance George, Dave Smart, Toby Nelson, Martin Franklin, Dac Compton, James Dajlid, Lewis Stevenson, Robin Campagivone, Andy Singleton, Dave Nolan. Front: Adam Smith, Craig Eyles, Jody Wells, Adam Barker, Craig Gillingham, Dean Gillingham, Dave Greenwood, Nick Wheeler, Matt Pullinger.



Priory. Back (from left): Mark Stuart, Paul Stamp, Paul Boddie, Darren Tollervey, Tom Williams, Stuart Beavis, Dan Marsh. Front: Tim Felstead, Dan Hewitt, Lee Morgan, Mark Collis and Andy Bale.



Rising Sun. Back (from left): Lee Small, Joe Cousins, John Bush, Wesley Smith, Adam Smith and Danny Compton. Front: Tom Layton, Dean Gillingham, Adam Barker, Duane Gillingham, Matt Pullinger, Steve Lynch.



Riverside Reds. Back (from left): Dean Guyatt, Gregg Webb, Tom Biggs, Craig Proudley, Scott Couzens, Rich Kendall, Joe Grassick (Manager). Front: Dan Phillips, Ben Wells, Craig Phillips, Alex Bater, Paul Jerrim, Matt Streats, Mike Fielden, Grant Webb.



Railway. Back (from left): Will Brereton, Alun Smith, Toby Brereton, Steve Pendrey, Stuart Barker, Mark Gulliford, Mike Hillier, Ben Bowers. Front: Matt Taylor, Gareth Clutterbuck, Stu Bullen, Jamie Moss, Doug Clutterbuck, Martin Garvey, Tom Williams.



Nursling Vets. Back (from left): Gary Hayes, Andy Stinton, Gregg Coak, Stu Talk, Simon Paul, Adam Hanley, Andy Scullard, Gary Chivers, Aaron Painter, Carey Moore. Front: Gary Paine, Dave Ashley, Paul Bedford, Gary Ash, Kev Jones, Stacey Green, Paul Odam.



North Baddesley Vets. Back (from left): Dave Lowe, ?, Paul Ferris, Paul Thompson, Eddie Wallis, Graham Drew, Micky Davies, Mark Pake. Front: Stu Noble, Kevin Bench, Andrew Holt, Billy Williams, Andy Green, Darren Bailey, Mark Snow..

FEATURED IN ANY OF THESE TEAMS?



Romsey. Back (from left) Dustin Hargreaves, Dan Parkes, Sam Arthur, Mike Taylor. Front: Christian Stokes, Tom Blyth, James Williams, Liam Woodford, Tim Kemp



Regents AFC. Back (from left) Tom Cox, Gareth Taylor, Gary Hamm, Jay Holmes and Chris Malone. Front: Graham Philpott, John Hickman, Alan McDonald, Dennis Peach, Chris Collins, Paul Chivers.



Priory Rovers.



Otterbourne. Back (from left) Stu Calvert, Simon Clunie, Keiron Brenchley, Duncan Cheyne, Dan Perrin and Tom Milczasek. Front: George Black, Ian Houghton, Gary Voysey, Jordon Smith, Aaron Milne, Andy Kerr..



Nursling Vets. Back (from left) Gary Hayes, Andy Stinton, Gregg Coak, Stu Talk, Simon Paul, Adam Hanley, Andy Scullard, Gary Chivers, Aaron Painter, Carey Moore. Front: Gary Paine, Dave Ashley, Paul Bedford, Gary Ash, Kev Jones, Stacey Green, Paul Odam



Northend. Back (from left) Manager Steff Centola, Adi Barrett, Karl Torpeey, Ed Moss, Jason Parker, Toby Whinshaw, Richard Sweeney, Neil Philpotts. Front: Flavio Miali, John McCreery, Jose Carvalho, Lee Ridoutt, Kieren Robinson, John Giggins.



Netley. Back (from left): Craig Stroud, Dean Wheeler, Dan Saxby, Glen Dewey, Sean New, Dan Potter, Josh Green, Carl Mason. Front, Carl Ruffell, Charlie Cook, Rich Strethlan, Will Martin, Danny Richards, Benny Cook.



Mark One. Back (from left): Steve Martin, Ady Lee, Danny Martin, Paul Adams, Tim Ralph, Jamie Keyte, Ben Hatcher, Neil Fielden. Front: Brad Holland, Anthony Cousens, Shawn Murphy, Chris Cousens, Mark Fee and Graham Davies.

PINK

BOOK REVIEW

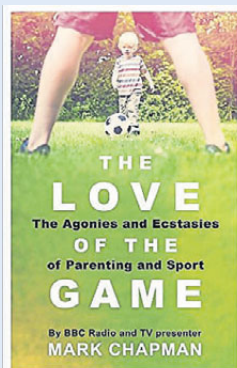
The Love of the Game: The Agonies and Ecstasies of Parenting and Sport
By Mark Chapman

Sportsbookofthemonth.com price: £14.88, saving £2.11 on rrp.

Towards the end of his latest book, *The Love of the Game*, Mark Chapman, one of television's most affable presenters, talks about his son's developing football prowess – not in a boastful way – but in the way fathers eventually must when realising that there's no need to let the boy nutmeg you: he can now do it at will.

Acknowledging that his son is becoming a man, Chapman shifts easily into manly mode himself, believing a good sliding tackle will show young Ben that he's no easy touch. He doesn't execute the tackle, of course, but you suspect that in a couple of years' time he might.

"Nurturing your children in the sporting world takes time, money and love," says Chappman, a man whose love of sport has clearly



been passed on to his son and daughter, as his own parents passed it on to him. You sense his frustration when he talks about today's children "craving physical activity", yet many find themselves parked in front of an expensive, yet tacky, computer game when kicking a ball in a park would be so much better for their health, both physically and mentally.

It is evident that Mr and Mrs Chapman see only good emanating from their willingness to enthusiastically support their children, irrespective of their latest sporting pursuit. During an entertaining passage of soul-searching, however, Chappman worries that he might be verging a little too close to becoming a pushy parent, wondering why he can't let his children enjoy themselves.

On balance, you suspect that Chapman and his wife have little to worry about; it appears they've got things about right, for there are millions of parents whose lives revolve around their children's sporting activities, be it with school or a local sports club. This is an entertaining, but also a thought-provoking book full of good humour and lashings of parental angst.

But isn't that what raising children is all about?

Most Premier League appearances ever ...



Ryan Giggs

Ryan Giggs 632 - Manchester United (1992–2014)

Gareth Barry 628 - Aston Villa, Manchester City, Everton (1997–)

Frank Lampard 609 - West Ham United, Chelsea, Manchester City (1995–2015)

David James 572 - Liverpool, Aston Villa, West Ham United, Manchester City, Portsmouth (1992–2010)

Gary Speed 534 - Leeds United, Everton, Newcastle United, Bolton Wanderers (1992–2008)

Emile Heskey 516 - Leicester City,

Liverpool, Birmingham City, Wigan Athletic, Aston Villa (1996–2012)

Mark Schwarzer 514 - Middlesbrough, Fulham, Chelsea, Leicester City (1996–)

Jamie Carragher 508 - Liverpool (1997–2013)

Philip Neville 505 - Manchester United, Everton (1995–2013)

Rio Ferdinand 504 - West Ham United, Leeds United, Manchester United, Queens Park Rangers (1996–2015)

Steven Gerrard 504 - Liverpool (1998–2015)

Sol Campbell 503 - Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, Portsmouth, Newcastle United (1992–2011)

Paul Scholes 499 - Manchester United (1995–2013)

John Terry 483 - Chelsea (1998–)

Sylvain Distin 469 - Newcastle United, Manchester City, Portsmouth, Everton, Bournemouth (2001–)

Michael Carrick 456 - West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United (1999–)

The top stats from the 117th US Open

The 117th US Open came to a close with American Brooks Koepka victorious. Here, the Sports Pink reviews the tournament in a "round" of 18 statistics.

1 - the number of birdies in Dustin Johnson's first round as defending champion. Johnson would go on to miss the cut at four over par.

2 - Hideki Matsuyama will climb to number two in the world rankings after finishing tied for second.

3 - For the first time in a major since the rankings were introduced in 1986, the pre-tournament top three - Johnson, Rory McIlroy and Jason Day - all missed the cut.

4 - Koepka's winning margin, finishing on 16 under par with Matsuyama and Brian Harman at 12 under.

5 - fairways hit by McIlroy in the first round, tied for worst in the field with amateur Walker Lee.

6 - successive birdies by Adam Hadwin on Thursday, from holes 18 to five having started on the back nine, to match the US Open record.

7 - Koepka was a seventh successive first-time major winner, following Day, Danny Willett, Johnson, Henrik Stenson, Jimmy Walker and Sergio Garcia.

8 - shots covering the field after the halfway cut.

9 - Justin Thomas became the first man to shoot a nine-under-par round at a US Open on Satur-



Japan's Hideki Matsuyama is now number two in the world rankings.

day, with his 63 also equalling the lowest 18-hole score in any major.

10 - Koepka only failed to make the green in regulation on 10 holes across his four rounds.

11 - eagles made by the field during round one.

12 - only three players had ever reached 12 under at any point of a US Open before this week. The top three finished at least 12 under at Erin Hills.

13 - the average world ranking of the previous 13 major champions was 13...

14 - ...and victory for world number 22 Koepka ensures the average over 14 tournaments now rounds to 14 (13.64).

15 - the top 15 on the leaderboard finished six under par or better. Only 15 previous winners of the tournament had done so since it was first played against

par in 1909.

16 - Koepka's 16-under-par total equalled the record for a US Open, set by Rory McIlroy in 2011.

17 - his closing 67 was the lowest final round by a US Open champion in 17 years, since Tiger Woods in 2000.

18 - the par-five 18th played as the easiest hole on the course over the four days, with an average of 4.843 strokes.

PINK

Most top flight football appearances ever ...



Peter Shilton

Peter Shilton 849 - Leicester, Stoke, Nottingham Forest, Saints, Derby County.

John Hollins 714 - Chelsea, Arsenal, Queens Park Rangers

Ray Clemence 710 - Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur.

Pat Jennings 709 - Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal FC

Ryan Giggs 672 - Manchester United

Mick Mills 658 - Ipswich Town, Saints

Martin Peters 656 - West Ham,

Tottenham, Norwich City

Steve Perryman 630 - Tottenham Hotspur, Oxford United

Gareth Barry 630 - Aston Villa, Everton, Manchester City

Alan Ball 628 - Blackpool, Everton, Arsenal, Saints

Gary Speed 626 - Leeds United, Newcastle United, Bolton, Everton

Frank Lampard 614 - WestHam, Chelsea, Manchester City
David Seaman 609 - Birmingham,

Manchester City, Arsenal, QPR

Ian Callaghan 607 - Liverpool

Neville Southall 594 - Everton, Bradford City

David James 579 - Liverpool, West Ham United, Aston Villa, Manchester City, Portsmouth FC

Norman Hunter 571 - Leeds United, Bristol City

Colin Todd 570 - Derby County, Sunderland, Everton, Nottingham Forest, Birmingham City, Luton Town

Seventh heaven for first winners

Brooks Koepka's victory in the US Open at Erin Hills made him the seventh successive first-time winner of a major.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the victors in that sequence.

JASON DAY

(2015 US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP)

The Australian shot a closing 67 to finish on a major championship record 20 under par and win at Whistling Straits by three strokes. Day, who had previously had nine top-10 major finishes, held off a chasing pack led by the formidable Jordan Spieth.

DANNY WILLETT

(2016 MASTERS)

Yorkshire's Willett capitalised as third-round leader Spieth capitulated, carding a final-round 67 to claim a shock win at Augusta. Spieth led by five at the turn but then dropped six shots in three holes and ended in a tie for second with Lee Westwood, three behind Willett.

DUSTIN JOHNSON

(2016 US OPEN)

Big-hitting Johnson held his nerve amid controversy to win by three strokes at Oakmont. Johnson was told on the 12th green he faced a possible penalty stroke for an infringement on the fifth, meaning he had to complete his round without knowing how big his lead actually was. He was eventually punished but still had a big enough cushion.

HENRIK STENSON

(2016 OPEN)

The charismatic Swede shot 63 as he emerged from a thrilling final-day duel with Phil Mickelson at Royal Troon with the Claret Jug. There was little between the pair for most of the day but Stenson finished with four birdies in his final five holes to win by three on an Open record 20 under.

JIMMY WALKER

(2016 US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP)

Rain forced him to play 36 holes on the Sunday and defending champion Day pushed hard, but Walker held on to claim a one-shot win at Baltusrol with a bogey-free final-round 67. The finish was a nervy one as a Day eagle on the 18th slashed a three-shot advantage as Walker visited the rough, but the American prevailed.

SERGIO GARCIA

(2017 MASTERS)

The Spaniard was a hugely popular victor at Augusta, pipping Justin Rose in a sudden-death play-off following an epic contest. The pair began the final round tied at the top of the leaderboard and both had spells out in front before finishing together on nine under. Garcia won with a birdie as they replayed the 18th.

BROOKS KOEPKA

(2017 US OPEN)

The American, who had a previous top-five US Open finish to his name when he tied for fourth at Pinehurst in 2014, was the model of consistency with rounds of 67, 70, 68 and 67 to equal Rory McIlroy's record winning score in the event of 16 under par.



Brooks Koepka after his victory at the 2017 U.S. Open at Erin Hills.

BOOK REVIEW

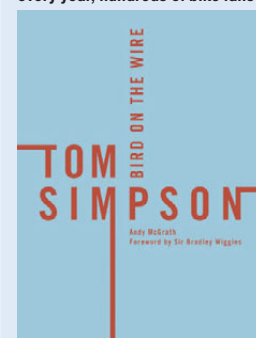
Tom Simpson: Bird On A Wire
By Andy McGrath

Sportsbookofthethemonth.com price: £28.80

On 13th July, it will be half a century since Tom Simpson died just a kilometre short of the summit of Mont Ventoux while riding in the Tour de France. He became professional cycling's highest-profile victim of doping, for it was illegal drugs that asphyxiated him at the age of 29.

His short autobiography, re-published eight years' ago, is littered with a sufficient quantity of evidence to suggest that Simpson was doping well before his untimely death.

Prior to the arrival of Sir Chris Hoy, Simpson was Britain's greatest cyclist, a remarkable athlete who, like Sir Chris, won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award (in 1965) and who became the first Briton to wear the coveted yellow jersey in the Tour de France. Tom Simpson also won four of cycling's seven 'classic' races; he continues to be held in such high esteem that every year, hundreds of bike fans



make the pilgrimage to Mont Ventoux to pay their respects at a small memorial erected in his honour.

The cause of his death has tarnished his legacy, but as the marvellous collection of photographs in *Bird On A Wire* shows, Simpson was so completely dedicated to his sport, he was head and shoulders above his domestic rivals.

He represented Great Britain in the 1956 Olympics. He would become a world champion and was amongst the first professional sportsmen to speak of 'mental toughness', several decades before the phrase became an integral part of the sporting vocabulary.

Had he not been the victim of some extraordinary bad luck that dogged his career, he would undoubtedly have won many more races.

After breaking his leg in 1966, Simpson forfeited around £30,000 in guaranteed earnings, a shortfall which many believe was enough to push him back onto his bike and drive him to within an ace of Mont Ventoux's bleak summit.

He clearly being a celebrity, rubbing shoulders with Prime Ministers and attractive women, yet this book's principal focus is, as it should be, on his riding, the photography supplementing an extraordinary tale.

PINK

Longest servers ...

The longest serving managers in the top four divisions of English football.

Arsène Wenger

Arsenal - since 1 October 1996

Paul Tisdale

Exeter City - 26 June 2006

Jim Bentley

Morecambe - since 13 May 2011

Gareth Ainsworth

Wycombe - since 24 September 2012

Neal Ardley

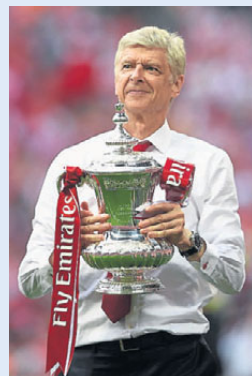
AFC Wimbledon - since 10 October 2012

Eddie Howe

Bournemouth - since 12 October 2012

Sean Dyche

Burnley - since 30 October 2012



Arsene Wenger

Mick McCarthy

Ipswich Town - since 1 November 2012

Keith Hill

Rochdale - since 22 January 2013

Simon Grayson

Preston North End - since 18 February 2013

Phil Brown

Southend United - since March 2013

Mark Hughes

Stoke City - since 30 May 2013

Darrell Clarke

Bristol Rovers - since 28 March 2014

Mauricio Pochettino

Tottenham - since 27 May 2014

Michael Appleton

Oxford United - since 4 July 2014

John Coleman

Accrington - since 18 September 2014

Fergie's tops ... but Arsene is closing in fast



Sir Alex Ferguson

Managers who have taken charge of most Premier League games.

Alex Ferguson

810 - Manchester United (810)

Arsène Wenger

790 - Arsenal (790)

Harry Redknapp

639 - West Ham United (269), Portsmouth (157), Tottenham (144), Queens Park Rangers (71), Saints (22)

David Moyes

499 - Everton (427), Sunderland (38), Manchester United (34)

Sam Allardyce

430 - Bolton Wanderers (226), West Ham United (114), Blackburn Rovers (41), Sunderland (30), Crystal Palace (21), Newcastle United (19)

Mark Hughes

421 - Blackburn Rovers (147), Stoke City (152), Manchester City (54), Fulham (38), Queens Park Rangers (30)

Steve Bruce

393 - Birmingham City (165),

Sunderland (89), Hull City (76), Wigan Athletic (63)

Martin O'Neill

359 - Aston Villa (152), Leicester City (152), Sunderland (55)

Alan Curbishley

328 - Charlton Athletic (266), West Ham United (62)

Graeme Souness

319 - Blackburn Rovers (118), Newcastle United (95), Liverpool (68), Saints (38)

The star men of the Champions Trophy

Players from all competing nations lit up the Champions Trophy this month. Here, the Sports Pink selects its elite composite XI:

FAKHAR ZAMAN

A revelation for Pakistan with two successive 50s and then a century in the final, in only his fourth one-day international - less than two weeks after his debut, at the age of 27. Where has he been?

SHIKHAR DHAWAN

The tournament's leading run-scorer is a must at the top of the order. He and his Indian opening partner Rohit Sharma bestrode the campaign almost throughout, until they fell foul of Mohammad Amir in the final.

TAMIM IQBAL

Has to come in down at three in this line-up - but after starting with a century against England, very nearly following up against Australia and then doing his best to keep Bangladesh competitive in their semi-final against India too, his weight of runs keeps him in the mix.

JOE ROOT

The Yorkshireman's unbeaten hundred engineered England's successful 300-plus run chase in the opening match. He comes in slightly out of position too here, but definitely makes the cut.

VIRAT KOHLI

Amir did for him in the final, and there was a duck along the way too. But three unbeaten half-centuries were fair evidence of the India captain's habitual world-beating status.



Shikhar Dhawan.

BEN STOKES

The England all-rounder's career-best century made mince-

well after recovering his fitness following a knee injury.

SARFRAZ AHMED

You have to pick Pakistan's winning captain. Sarfraz is an exemplary presence behind the stumps, and he kept his country in the reckoning as he rode his luck for a winning hand against Sri Lanka in Cardiff.

MOHAMMAD AMIR

Amir batted with nous and skill to help Sarfraz clinch the deal after Pakistan stuttered in the chase against Sri Lanka. But it is for his impact on the final - pure theatre with two huge wickets in his first two overs, and another following pretty swiftly - that the brilliantly talented left-armer is primarily included.

JUNAID KHAN

No spinner gets in this team - England's Adil Rashid arguably comes closest - and the finalists dominate selection. Junaid was the consistent wicket-taker who helped Pakistan find their feet mid-tournament.

HASAN ALI

The resourceful seamer accelerated South Africa's slide at Edgbaston, and his skilful variations were a banker option for Pakistan captain Sarfraz in some of the toughest overs.

BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

No one got hold of India's most reliable bowler at any stage, and Kumar's figures of 10-2-44-1 were a remarkable outlier in Pakistan's total of 338 for four in the final.

meat of Australia at Edgbaston, as his counter-attack alongside Eoin Morgan ended the tournament for Steve Smith's men. Stokes is 'go-to' with the ball as

PINK

Lionel Messi - a football genius by numbers

With Lionel Messi turning 30 on Saturday, the Sports Pink looks at the Barcelona and Argentina star's illustrious career in numbers.

507

goals for Barcelona, in 583 games, including a record 349 in LaLiga.

9

goals scored in 2012, breaking the calendar-year record set by German Gerd Müller in 1972.

40

career hat-tricks; 36 for Barcelona, four for Argentina.
0.87 - Goals-per-game average for Barcelona.

118

caps for Argentina.

60

goals for Argentina, taking him past Gabriel Batistuta as his nation's all-time leading scorer. That tally includes his two

in the 2008 Olympics.

8

La Liga titles with Barcelona.

4

Champions League wins.

5

times he has won the Ballon d'Or, as the world's best player (in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2015).

29

trophies won with Barca.

47

seconds into his Argentina debut before he was sent off, against Hungary in 2005, aged 18, after coming on as a substitute.

67

Messi's height in inches (5ft 7in).

16

Age at which Messi made his Barcelona first-team debut.

Messi's goal statistics

Barcelona and Argentina star Lionel Messi turns 30 on Saturday.

Here, the Sports Pink breaks down his 567 career goals statistically.

BY COMPETITION

Barcelona:
LaLiga: 349
Champions League: 94
Copa del Rey: 44
Spanish Super Cup: 12
UEFA Super Cup: 3
Club World Cup: 5
Total: 507

Argentina:
World Cup: 5
World Cup qualifying: 18
Copa America: 8
International friendlies: 27
Olympics: 2
Total: 60

BY SEASON

(Club + country. Season defined as July 1 to June 30)

2004-05: 1
2005-06: 8+2



Barcelona's Lionel Messi

2006-07: 17+2
2007-08: 16+5
2008-09: 38+5
2009-10: 47+1
2010-11: 53+4
2011-12: 73+9
2012-13: 60+9
2013-14: 41+7
2014-15: 58+4
2015-16: 41+9
2016-17: 54+3

FAVOURITES

v Sevilla: 29 goals
v Atletico Madrid: 27
v Valencia: 24
v Real Madrid: 23
v Athletic Bilbao: 22

HAT-TRICKS

● Messi has scored 36 hat-tricks in his Barca career, including 25 in LaLiga, and another four for Argentina.

● He managed 12 for club and country in his most prolific season, 2011-12, when he scored 82 goals in 73 games in all competitions. His 50 league goals featured eight hat-tricks and he added two more among his 14 Champions League goals and two in Argentina friendlies, including in a 4-3 win over Brazil in New Jersey.

He's Baku on track!

Lewis Hamilton will arrive in Baku for the Azerbaijan Grand Prix with his championship challenge firmly back on track after he reduced the title deficit to Sebastian Vettel with victory in Canada.

The 32-year-old Englishman is now just 12 points behind his Ferrari rival with four rounds remaining before Formula One's summer break.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five talking points ahead of Sunday's race at the Baku Street Circuit.

CAN HAMILTON MAINTAIN MOMENTUM?

While Hamilton has hauled himself back into the title race following his third consecutive Montreal triumph and his third victory of the season, the Briton will be keen to lay to rest the demons of his last outing in Azerbaijan. The triple world champion started last year's inaugural race on the streets of Baku in emphatic fashion as he led the way in practice. But he then hit the wall in qualifying before crossing the line only in fifth after spending much of the race in the wrong engine mode setting. Hamilton has proven this year that when he is on it from the get-go - as was the case in China, Spain and Canada - he is largely unbeatable. The Briton needs another strong weekend to keep the pressure on Vettel with four rounds left before the summer break.

2018 TRIPLE-HEADER TO AVOID CLASH

The Formula One schedule will be extended to a record-equaling 21 grands prix next year with the return of races in France, at the Paul Ricard Circuit, and Germany's Hockenheim track. The French Grand Prix, back on the calendar for the first time in a decade, will kick off an unprecedented run of three consecutive races and five in six weeks. F1 chairman Chase Carey explained that the hectic schedule was due,



Lewis Hamilton celebrates his victory at the Canadian Grand Prix earlier this month.

in part, to avoiding a clash with the football World Cup final, which takes place on July 15. "Part of the schedule of having three races in a row was because we did not think it was ideal for a promoter to have an event go head to head with the World Cup final," American Carey said.

GRID PENALTY

Fernando Alonso is braced for another difficult weekend behind the wheel of his McLaren as he faces a grid penalty following his engine failure on the penultimate lap of the Canadian Grand Prix. Alonso, 35, was due to score both his and McLaren's first point of the season only for his Honda engine to conk out. McLaren are looking to break away from the Japanese manufacturer following three years of pain with a return

to Mercedes power said to be in the offing. Williams, meanwhile, have distanced themselves from a partnership with Honda following a report in Swiss media suggesting they were keen on a deal.

PRESSURE PILING UP ON PALMER

Jolyon Palmer is under growing pressure at Renault after his boss Cyril Abiteboul told the Briton he must start scoring points. The 26-year-old is yet to open his account this season while his teammate Nico Hulkenberg has finished in the top 10 at four of the last five races. "F1 is not an environment where anyone can say loudly, 'I'm safe'," Abiteboul told Autosport. "The fact is that Jo has a car which is a points-scoring car, and he has to enter into

the points. Full stop. Right now I feel that it's a bit almost unfair to Nico, who has to do a lot. The team is clearly very dependent on him."

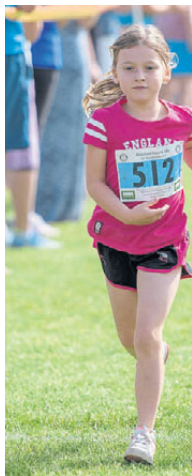
LOOK WHO'S BAKU IN TOWN, LEWIS

And finally, Nicole Scherzinger, Hamilton's former long-term girlfriend, will be in Baku on Saturday night for a three-day concert put on by the circuit's organisers. The American singer was a regular on the Formula One tour before her split with Hamilton nearly three years ago. Indeed this will be her first presence at a grand prix weekend since she she flew to Abu Dhabi to watch Hamilton clinch the second of his three world championships in November 2014.

ALRESFORD 10K AND FUN RUN



ALRESFORD 10K AND FUN RUN



RUNNING RESULTS

ALRESFORD 10K			63. David Walker (Winchester)	48.10
FIRST 100 FINISHERS			64. Becky Edsforth 48.11	
1. Matthew Bennet (Souton AC)	34.23	65. John McKenzie (Hedge End)	48.37	
2. Richard Bidgood (Winchester)	37.26	66. Kevin Kearns	48.47	
3. Lesley Locks (Hart RR)	38.13	67. James Tillston	48.48	
4. Graham Bungay (2751435)	38.34	68. Neil White (Totton RC)	48.49	
5. Peter Sansome (Winchester)	38.48	69. Luke Warren	48.50	
6. Ben Ringrose-Voase (Winchester)	39.01	70. Tessa Loots	48.51	
7. Jordan Winbourne (Hedge End)	39.19	71. Michael Manby	48.52	
8. James Moore (3348334)	39.25	72. Euan Kellie	48.53	
9. Neil Brown (Basingstoke)	39.29	73. Glyn Hicks	48.54	
10. Kathryn Bailey (Winchester)	39.34	74. Jonathan Killick	48.57	
11. Chris Buxton (Gosport RR)	39.46	75. Nichola Gordon-Jones (Alton)	48.58	
12. George Long (City of Portsmouth)	40.34	76. James Buckler	49.02	
13. Ben Jones (Cambridge)	40.49	77. Tina Chantrey (Stubbington)	49.06	
14. Will Peshall	40.56	78. James Ashton	49.11	
15. Dominic Lobo (Fleet & Cr)	41.03	79. Steve Porcher	49.13	
16. Andy Herman (Itchen Spitfires)	41.11	80. Jonathan Langueneur	49.15	
17. Alistair Morey (Alton Runners)	41.18	81. Gary James	49.29	
18. James Cole (Fitique)	42.26	82. Mick Anglim (Hardley)	49.38	
19. Simon Thompson (Fleet)	42.33	83. Andrew Bryson (Winchester)	49.47	
20. Toby Woods (Winchester)	42.53	84. Philip McCormick	49.51	
21. Jonathan Woods	42.54	85. Will Sanders	49.55	
22. Ben Whettingsteel (Eastleigh)	43.03	86. Richard Jackson	49.58	
23. Bethany Thompson	43.04	87. David Chalk (Itchen Spitfires)	50.14	
24. Eli Dawson (Alton Runners)	43.16	88. Stuart Jackson	50.16	
25. Paul Boyd-Leslie (Eastleigh RC)	43.31	89. Sarah Flannigan	50.19	
26. Susy Perry (Winchester)	43.39	90. Daisy Chetwode (Alton Runners)	50.20	
27. Rory Horseman (Hatch Warren)	43.51	91. Vanessa Valentini	50.23	
28. Oliver Cox	43.53	92. Joanne Chamberlain		
29. Godfrey Rhimes (Portsmouth)	43.56	(Chineham Park)	50.24	
30. Penny Freeman (Winchester)	44.04	93. Peter Swithinbank	50.25	
31. Miles Chesterman	44.11	94. Andrew Hook	50.35	
32. Neil Watson	44.25	95. Ian Shelbourn	50.36	
33. Olly Shadbolt	44.37	96. Craig Broadbent	50.37	
34. Mike Fernando	44.45	97. David Dunford (Eastleigh)	50.44	
35. Camille King (Southampton AC)	44.48	98. Gareth Evans (Itchen Sp)	50.45	
36. Ian Davidson (17 Port & Maritime Vets)	44.54	99. Hallam Foster (Farnham)	50.47	
37. Simon Pettinati	44.55	100. Lucy May (Stubbington Gr)	50.50	
38. Sarah Gurney (Winchester)	45.06	OTHER LOCAL CLUB FINISHERS		
39. Sarah Shedden (Winchester)	45.11	102. Alan Cowan (Hedge End)	50.56	
40. Neil Read	45.12	103. Joanna Curtis (Winchester)	50.57	
41. Adrian Haughton (Winchester)	45.17	110. Liz Marshall (Winchester)	51.24	
42. Rachel Evans (Soton AC)	45.20	114. Mark Stanmore (Itchen Sp)	51.43	
43. John McElroy (Chineham Park)	45.32	120. Sarah Rhimes (Eastleigh RC)	52.04	
44. Jamie Kilner-Smith (Alton)	45.56	124. David Harris (Worthy Runners)	52.20	
45. Colin McDonnell	46.12	129. Chris Winbourne (Hedge End)	53.44	
46. Hugh Nightingale	46.14	153. Neil Glasspool (Itchen Spitfires)	53.55	
47. Lee Clare (Hedge End)	46.20	154. Kevin Mills (Itchen Spitfires)	53.59	
48. Kali Banda (Itchen Spitfires)	46.23	165. Helen Bonaer (Itchen Spitfires)	54.37	
49. Peter Terry	46.24	182. Chris Jones (Itchen Spitfires)	56.27	
50. Dean Rawlins	46.25	188. Andy Ward (Itchen Spitfires)	56.55	
51. Ryan Dovell (TWC)	46.47	205. Helen Bonaer (Itchen Spitfires)	58.07	
52. Clare Jesson (Itchen Spitfires)	46.48	215. Sandra Hook (Hedge End)	59.06	
53. George Tovey (S London Harr)	46.48	251. Elizabeth White (Totton RC)	62.06	
54. Charlie Smith	46.51	260. Janet Haughton (Winchester)	62.32	
55. Charlie Fowler	46.52	264. Paula Lovell (Itchen Sp)	62.47	
56. Simon Barber	47.01	269. Karen Hazlitt (Winchester)	63.13	
57. Eugenia Jackman (Elmbridge)	47.07	306. Aisha Murphy (Itchen Sp)	67.24	
58. Tim Dicker	47.08	319. Amanda Chalk (Itchen Sp)	69.53	
59. Monty Palfrey	47.28	346. Rob Wall (Hedge End RC)	73.05	
60. Fin Hampton	47.36	381. Linda Seymour (Itchen Sp)	78.56	
61. Richard Shingleton-Smith (Winchester)	47.59	391. Amanda Harris (Itchen Sp)	81.56	
62. JJ Heath Caldwell (Winchester)	48.06	392. Amelia Walker (Itchen Sp)	81.57	
		393. Mark Waughman (Itchen Sp)	82.02	



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PINK

Growing pains, tattoos and a theme park ...



Barcelona and Argentina striker Lionel Messi turns 30 on Saturday. Here, the Sports Pink identifies five things you might not know about the mercurial Messi.

1. A nitty nickname - 'La Pulga' is not a familiar term to most British football fans but in Spain and Argentina the moniker is synonymous with Messi. It means 'The Flea' as the diminutive forward is a constant pest during games and, as the opposition try and fail to swat him away, he is likely to bite them at any time.

2. Growing pains - Messi stands at 5ft 7in partly because of a growth hormone deficiency, with which he was diagnosed when he was 11 and already a star youth

performer with Newell's Old Boys. The Argentinian club were unable to provide serious funding for his treatment and it was not until he sealed a switch to Barca in 2001 that he was able to take regular injections of hormones to aid his development.

3 Tattooed talent - Messi has numerous tattoos, including a rose window inspired by Barcelona's famous Sagrada Familia church on his right arm, as well as his mother's face on his shoulder blade and the hand prints of his first child Thiago on his calf.

4 Messiworld? - In early 2019 a new theme park will open in Nanjing, China. There will be 81,000 square metres of football-based attractions with an intention to "immerse

visitors in Messi's universe." Yes, the Messi Experience Park is in development but Chinese day-trippers cannot expect to see too much of the Barca star around the site.

5 Do cry for me, Argentina - Despite his innumerable successes with Barcelona, Messi has experienced little real joy across his 118 appearances for Argentina.

His international career started well enough as he won the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in 2005 and an Olympic gold medal three years later.

But he has twice tasted defeat in the Copa America final and was on the losing side when Argentina met Germany in the 2014 World Cup final. Now, even at 30, he will still have opportunities to guide La Albiceleste to silverware.

Seven EFL games to look out for ...

The new English Football League fixtures have been announced, as the 72 clubs start their preparations for the upcoming season.

Here are seven eye-catching games ...

Sunderland v Derby, August 4

Sunderland are in a race against time to get their house in order - a race that has now been shortened by 24 hours. Kicking off the new season on Friday, August 4, it remains to be seen what state the Black Cats will be in by then. Up for sale and without a manager, let alone a big enough squad to take on the Championship slog, Gary Rowett's Rams will provide a tough early test in front of the cameras.

Aston Villa v Hull, August 5

Hull are rebuilding again as their yo-yoing continues, this time opting to make Leonid Slutsky the first Russian to manage in England. Slutsky's work will begin against arguably Hull's best ever manager, Steve Bruce, now at Villa. Bruce walked away from Hull last summer, with grave concerns about the club's future. He eventually landed in Birmingham, overseeing - at no small price - a rebuilding of Villa, while Hull went down despite the best efforts of Marco Silva. Both will be fancied to make promotion tilts this time around.

Forest Green v Barnet, August 5

When Forest Green start life in League Two on August 5, the town of Nailsworth will become the smallest ever to host a Football League club, with a population of a shade under 6,000. Rovers are certainly different to other clubs, with owner Dale Vince working on the construction of an 'Eco Park' stadium. Barnet's fans will be the first



Paul Cook has swapped Portsmouth for Wigan.

in the league to sample Vince's vegan-only menu, too.

Norwich v Sunderland, August 12

If you want to 'do a Huddersfield' and get promoted then why not replicate the way they did it? Norwich appointed Town's sporting director, Stuart Webber, late last season, and went for Borussia Dortmund's reserve boss, Daniel Farke, as their new manager, just as Webber did in Yorkshire when he appointed Da-

vid Wagner at Huddersfield. Will the result be the same? Time will tell, but the signing of Marley Watkins is an excellent one and a first home game against Sunderland should be a real test, provided the visitors are in some sort of working order by then.

Wigan v Portsmouth, August 26

After taking Portsmouth to the League Two title, manager Paul Cook said the only club he would leave for was Liverpool. He will

meet Portsmouth, with Wigan, on August 26. In his defence, Cook said the American takeover of Pompey meant it was no longer the club he joined and left with a heavy heart. Portsmouth's notoriously large away contingent will be sure to take that into account when they head to the DW Stadium.

Sheffield Wednesday v Sheffield United, September 23

The Steel City has waited five years for the return of the Sheffield derby and, as a result of United walking away with the League One title and Wednesday losing in the Championship play-offs, it is back. Hillsborough will host the first tie, with the return at Bramall Lane on January 13. Wednesday have stuck with Carlos Carvalhal despite falling in the play-offs for the second year in a row and will likely spend big again in a bid to make the leap to the top flight. For United, Wednesday will be a scalp they and hometown striker Billy Sharp are desperate for.

Leeds v Middlesbrough, November 18

On May 7 Leeds fans serenaded Garry Monk, pleading with him to extend his one-year stay with them. A 12-month turnaround may not have yielded the play-off place it often promised, but Monk was clearly the man who had stabilised Leeds more than most over recent years. He says Leeds did not offer a clear path forward for him; Leeds say he turned down a deal. He will return to Elland Road with Middlesbrough to boots. Leeds have gone their own way with Thomas Christiansen but it remains to be seen if he can replicate Monk's success.

3 things you can't miss in the racing week

WINGS TO SOAR AGAIN?

Wings Of Eagles will get his chance to prove his Epsom Derby victory was no fluke as he lines up in Saturday's Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at the Curragh. Sent off a 40-1 chance on the Downs, Wings Of Eagles trumped his fellow Aidan O'Brien inmate Cliffs Of Moher by three-quarters of a length with Cracksman back in third. Cliffs Of Moher appears unlikely to try his luck again but John Gosden was eager to have another go at Wings Of Eagles following the Epsom race. O'Brien has any number of runners to throw out in Classic support as he seeks a 12th victory in the race.

PITMEN'S PRIZE

A Derby of a different kind takes place at Newcastle on Saturday with the Stobart Rail Northumberland Plate, aka the Pitmen's Derby, taking centre stage. The two-mile prize was run for the first time on Tapeta last year and it produced a shock 16-1 winner in the shape of Antiquarium. Sadly that horse will not be back to defend his title and it is the Sir Mark Prescott-trained Flymetothestars who currently heads the market with Who Dares Wins and Seamour two other leading contenders at this stage.

SITTING PRETTY

Minding emerged a clear-cut winner of last year's Pretty Polly Stakes at the Curragh and while she will sadly not be able to bid for a double due to injury, Aidan O'Brien still has a welter of contenders. Winter, Somehow and Rhododendron are some of the names to feature in the entries at this stage and it will be fascinating to see who pitches up for Ballydoyle. Dermot Weld also has a handful of interesting possibles, headed by the well-touted Tocco D'Amore.

FIXTURES

(FLAT IN CAPITALS)

Monday: CHEPSTOW, Southwell (evening), WINDSOR (evening), WOLVERHAMPTON
Tuesday: BEVERLEY, BRIGHTON, LEICESTER (evening), Newton Abbot (evening)
Wednesday: BATH (evening), CARLISLE, KEMPTON (evening), SALISBURY, Worcester
Thursday: HAMILTON (evening), NEWBURY (evening), NEWCASTLE, NEWMARKET, NOTTINGHAM
Friday: Cartmel, CHESTER (evening), DONCASTER, NEWCASTLE (evening), NEWMARKET (evening), YARMOUTH
Saturday: CHESTER, DONCASTER (evening), LINGFIELD (evening), NEWCASTLE (ITV), NEWMARKET (ITV), WINDSOR, YORK
Sunday: Cartmel, Uttoxeter, WINDSOR

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